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INTRODUCTION.

I AM not aware that the western shores of Africa have yet been visited by any travellers, for the avowed purpose of making discoveries, at least in those parts situated between Cape Palmas and the River Congo ; and the few works published relative to these countries, have been written by men (whatever their education or powers of discrimination may have been) who had duties of a higher personal interest to perform, and which left them but little time to make scientific researches. In this part of Africa, therefore, as well as in the interior, there is a wide field for the enlightened traveller to explore ; and should these Sketches be found serviceable to him, in the pursuit of objects valuable to science,



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INTRODUCTION.

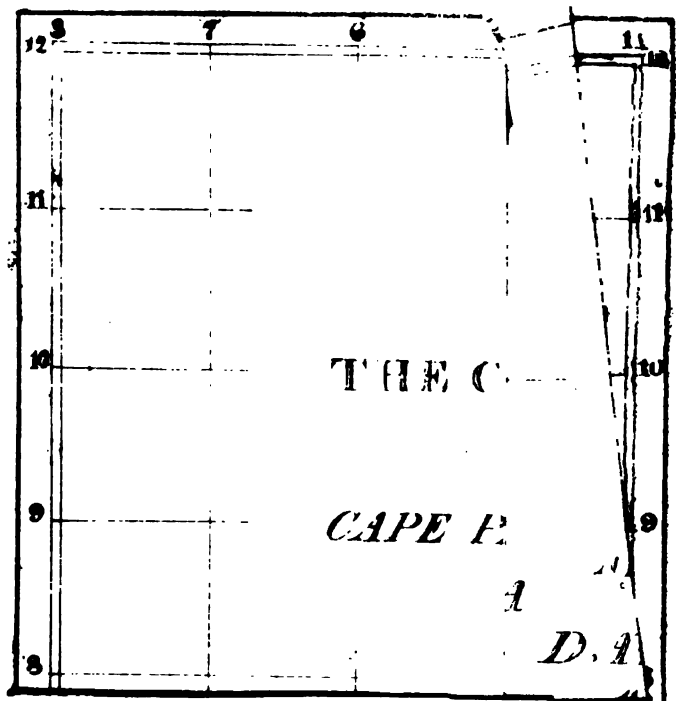
I AM not aware that the western shores of Africa have yet been visited by any travellers, for the avowed purpose of making discoveries, at least in those parts situated between Cape Palmas and the River Congo ; and the few works published relative to these countries, have been written by men (whatever their education or powers of discrimination may have been) who had duties of a higher personal interest to perform, and which left them but little time to make scientific researches. In this part of Africa, therefore, as well as in the interior, there is a wide field for the enlightened traveller to explore ; and should these Sketches be found serviceable to him, in the pursuit of objects valuable to science,

part of the Author's intention in laying them before the Public, will be answered.

In the selection of a place for colonization in Africa, the members composing the African Institution, it is too well known, have been peculiarly unfortunate. The insalubrity of the air of Sierra Leone is almost become proverbial, and those going there, are considered by many as embarking for the next world ; it is therefore much to be apprehended, that one of the benevolent purposes for which that settlement was originally founded, will be frustrated. Hence, in the course of these brief Sketches, I have endeavoured to point out a place suitable for establishing a colony of the negroes captured on board of contraband slave-ships, with a view to the ultimate civilization of the Africans by their means. In fact, there is not along the whole line of coast, extending from Cape Palmas, where these Sketches commence, to the River Congo, embracing an extent of five hundred leagues, one place that has come under my observation, so peculiarly well adapted for that purpose, as the one to which I allude, and

for the reasons adduced in the course of this work.

The trade in the productions of the soil of Africa, having of late greatly increased, more especially in consequence of the final abolition of the slave-trade on the western shores of Africa, north of the equator, I have given in the Appendix, a statement of such articles, both of Indian and European manufacture, as are suitable to barter for gold, ivory, and palm-oil; as also the current prices for which they are generally bought in Europe, and bartered in Africa.



SKETCHES, &c.

Chap. I.

Cape Palmas—Coley's Rock, and opinion respecting it—Bereby—Drewin—St. Andrew's—Cape Lahoo—town and river—Bassams, Great and Little—Assinee—Appolonia—British forts on the Gold Coast—Fantees—their customs—Chambas or Duncos, their character.

CAPE PALMAS lies in latitude $4^{\circ} 30'$ north, and longitude $7^{\circ} 26'$ west of Greenwich. Off the Cape there is a reef, in the inside of which, and near the shore, small vessels may anchor.

To the westward of Cape Palmas, a rock was discovered by Captain Coley, of the ship *Queen*, of London, in the year 1794, and the account which he gave of it and its bearings, is as follows :
“ Two high trees above Garraway, bearing north
“ five leagues, pitch of Cape Palmas, E. N. E. six
“ and a half leagues. On the top of the rock I
“ found ten feet water, and it tapers down to
“ seven fathoms as close as you can chuck a

“biscuit. The depth of water, after clearing the rock, is thirteen fathoms.”*

The natives of the Cape are poor and inoffensive, and live principally by fishing. They sometimes bring off to vessels a small quantity of ivory and Malagetta pepper.

Bereby is situated on the margin of a bay, in which boats can generally land, as there is a projecting point of land which breaks off the sea. The natives sell a little ivory.

St. Andrew's and Drewin. The people here have a small quantity of ivory, for which they always wish an exorbitant price.

The town of Cape Lahoo is built on a narrow peninsula of sand formed by the sea and river, and may consist of 150 houses, containing a

* The distance which Captain Coley has estimated this rock to be from the land, must certainly be erroneous, because neither Garraway nor Cape Palmas would be visible from the quarter-deck of his vessel, at the distances which he has given ; and it is to be presumed that he took the bearings of the land from his boat, when sounding on the rock. From Garraway to Cape Palmas, including both these places, the land is so very low, that in approaching it from the sea, the trees growing on it are first visible above the horizon, and have the appearance of a fleet of ships. Therefore, if he took the bearings and distance of the rock from the boat, a line drawn from his eye, and terminating at the distance of five leagues, would require an object to be 160 feet high to be seen at that point ; and at the distance of six and a half leagues, an object 180 feet high would be requisite for the same purpose, supposing the atmosphere to be unusually clear, which is by no means common on this part of the coast of Africa ; and the highest trees here have not an apparent altitude exceeding fifty or sixty feet.

population of seven or eight hundred souls. The Dutch, at a former period, carried on here a considerable trade in slaves and ivory, particularly in the latter, in which article the Lahoo people have always dealt largely.

As the trade with Europeans is carried on on board their vessels, but few of them ever go on shore, and I was in consequence anxious to pay the town a visit. On making my intention known to the natives, they seemed much gratified, and placed me in one of their best canoes for that purpose, from which we landed without being much wet, the surf on the shore being moderate. I was taken to the Chief's house, who treated me with much attention, kindness, and hospitality; but the beautiful tropical picture which the river at this time presented, would have amply repaid me for my trouble, if I had had no other cause for being pleased with my journey. This little river, after bending its course from the north to the back of the town, runs to the eastward a few hundred yards, parallel to the sea-shore, and then joins the sea. Its mouth is narrow and choked with hard sand, on which the sea breaks with great violence, so as to render it very dangerous either for boats or canoes to approach its entrance. It was now the dry season, its stream almost pellucid, and its surface so tranquil, that the

graceful palms which adorn its banks were reflected from its surface as from a mirror; and a few canoes, in which people were employed fishing, gave animation to the scene. The town formed the fore-ground, and a cluster of large Ceiba and other trees, the screen to this interesting tropical picture. A boundless expanse of ocean placed within a few hundred yards of it, on which I had toiled many years, and a foaming surf rolling in upon the shore, formed a striking contrast to the tranquillity and beauty of the landscape spread out before me, which gave it charms that in my eyes it might not otherwise have had.

Men, women, and children, accompanied me when I went to view the entrance of the river, and I was much surprised to see many of the females, approaching the adult age, in a state of nudity, as compared with those of their own sex and age living on the Gold Coast, and without seeming at all conscious of the indecency of their appearance.

The form of government is patriarchal, although a man named Antonia appeared to exercise the greatest authority; he was at this time labouring under a diseased stomach, in consequence of having taken a dose of the tincture of cantharides, administered to him by the surgeon of a vessel, to whom he had complained of impotence.

After spending a few hours on shore, I embarked in a canoe, was upset in the surf, and swam through it to the boat, lying a few yards outside the breakers; an old man, apparently seventy years of age, swam alongside of me, to secure me from the danger of being drowned; and as soon as he had seen me safe in the boat, immediately returned to the shore. These people, like those of the windward coast, are almost amphibious.

The places of trade lying between Cape Lahoo and Appolonia, are Jack Lahoo, Great and Little Bassam, and Assinee; at the three latter places much gold and ivory is obtained, the former of a very superior quality. The trade in gold is also considerable at Appolonia, where the most western British fort is situated. Small cattle are sometimes to be purchased very cheap at Jack Lahoo, and also at Jack-a-Jack, besides yams and palm oil. The latter place is a few miles to the eastward of the former.

The British forts on the Gold Coast are Dixcove, a few miles to leeward of Cape-three-Points, and near a small break in the land, which may be called a cove, and from which no doubt the name in part originated. It is capable of sheltering a few boats of fifteen or twenty tons burthen, and is valuable as being the only place on the Gold

Coast where craft can be repaired. Much gold, of a fine quality, is also obtained here.

Succundee and Comenda are insignificant places, and of no value for either military or commercial purposes.

Cape Coast Castle is the residence of the commander-in-chief, and is in lat. $5^{\circ} 12'$ north, and $1^{\circ} 3'$ west of Greenwich.

Annamaboo, Tantom, Winnebah, and Accra, constitute the remainder of the British settlements, or forts, on the Gold Coast.

The Fantees and Asshantees may be classed together as one nation, the former occupying the sea-shore, and the country extending a few miles from it into the interior, and the latter a great extent of territory north of it.

The Fantees are black as jet, muscular, and well-formed, and those that are engaged in fishing and employed as canoe-men, can endure much bodily fatigue, although they often make excuses to abridge their labour, however well they may be paid for it; for they are anxious to have the business of the day concluded by noon, in order that they may wash and dress, and gossip with their neighbours the remainder of the day.

Their national mark is three small perpendicular incisions on each temple, and on the nape of the neck.

In the construction of their dwellings and canoes, they exhibit much superiority and skill over other African tribes; the former being substantially built, and not unfrequently having apartments over those on the basement story, and the latter having a form which renders them less liable to upset, or to speak in a sailor's phrase, not so crank.

The Fantee women are well-formed, and many of them are not wanting in personal beauty, as their features are small, their limbs finely rounded, their hands and feet small, and their teeth uniformly white and even. The toilette of one of these females consists of a large calabash, containing a small mirror, paint (generally white,) teeth-brushes made of very fibrous tough wood, a bark which has a powerful musky smell, grease, and soap; she has also a large brass pan in which she generally washes herself from head to foot every day. She often consumes an hour or two in adorning her person, and in the application of her paint, the management of her hair, and the scenting of her person, discovers no inconsiderable degree of skill.

Young females on arriving at the age of puberty, are dressed in their best garments, and have their persons adorned with the gold belonging to their families and acquaintances. In this

garb they are paraded through the town by a number of their own sex. This ceremony is intended to acquaint the men that the lady is marriageable.

The women here, however, as well as in most other parts of Africa, sow and reap, grind corn, carry wood and water, and perform all the drudgery attendant on housekeeping; while their husbands are perhaps gossiping, drinking, or sleeping.

The custom of sacrificing human beings to the manes of their ancestors, is common to the Fantees; and the Crabba and Cransa, or the youngest wife, where marriage has not been consummated, and the boy who carries the smoking apparatus belonging to a great man, are always despatched the instant the breath leaves his body.

The practice of executing the person in whose house a fire commences, which too often destroys the village where it occurs, is common here, as in the Dahomian territory.

The natives of Chamba, of whom many are sold on the Gold Coast, inhabit a country lying to the north of Asshantee. Their stature is generally above the middle size, and the colour of their skins is not of so deep a black as those of the Fantee or Asshantee. They are an agricultural people, whose dispositions are mild, tract-

able, and inoffensive; and of all the negroes inhabiting the countries north of the equator, that have come under my observation, they are the most passive. In fact, they may be called a simple people, who never exhibit any sullenness of manner, but a uniform willingness to do to the best of their ability whatever they are desired; and the term Dunco, which in the Fantee language signifies stupid fellow, or ignorant man, from the back country, is invariably given to them by the Fantees, as a term of derision, in consequence. To the Fantees, as well as to the Asshantees, they have a strong aversion, because they consider these people as the authors of their misfortunes, and the chief instruments used in removing them from their country; therefore, whenever insurrections have occurred on board of slave ships on the Gold Coast, as the Fantees and Asshantees were invariably the promoters of them, the Chambas, as if to be revenged on them, always assisted the crews in suppressing these mutinies, and keeping them in subjection.

The tallow, or national mark, of this race, consists of three strong lines drawn from the temple over each cheek to the chin, and taking the form of the longitudinal lines upon a globe.

When they first arrive upon the sea-coast, they are very meagre in consequence of the fatigue

experienced by them in their long journey from the interior; but their constitutions being excellent, they are soon restored to their natural vigour and plumpness by rest and plentiful diet.

Chap. II.

Dahomy—Grewhe, the trading town—country described—singular customs—Ardrah—the road to it—the lake—the country described—markets—manufactures—industry of the inhabitants—kingdom of Eyeo—its extent—protection afforded to Ardrah by its King—the Eyeo people described—natives of Housa—Lagos—Cradoo Lake—trade of Lagos—customs—population—medium of exchange—Jaboos, their country and industry.

GREWHE, which may be called the sea-port of the kingdom of Dahomy, is in latitude $6^{\circ} 17'$ north, and longitude $3^{\circ} 6'$ east of Greenwich. It is a populous town, and contains probably six or seven thousand inhabitants. In passing to it from the sea-shore, a lagoon is to be forded, which is a quarter of a mile over, and the same distance from the beach, to which it runs parallel to the east, and communicates with the sea at Popo, but terminates in a wooded morass to the west, which morass intersects the road to Ardrah.

The history of Dahomy, and the manners and customs of its inhabitants, have been so ably and faithfully described by Governor Dalzel and Mr. Norris, that the remarks made here must necessarily be brief, and of minor importance.

The country surrounding Grewhe is fertile, open, and level, exhibiting large savannas covered with high grass, although in some parts thickly wooded with fine-grown trees. To the north of the town are some well-cultivated lands, producing peas, calavancies, maize, and yams; over which passes the road leading through the towns of Xavier and Tory to Abomey, the king's usual residence. A few miles to the north-west of Tory is the western extremity of the lagoon, or lake, of Ardrah; and in the vicinity of Tory there is a very favourite spot in the river, to which elephants resort to bathe; herds of them are often to be seen, and it was an annual custom with the European residents at Grewhe, to make a party of pleasure, to visit the elephant-grounds, or to go, as they called it, an elephant-shooting.

One of the singular customs of the people of Grewhe, as well as of those of Popo, is the admission of females into the order of priesthood; a custom which has not been noticed by Governor Dalzel, in his history of Dahomy. An account of the ceremony practised on this occasion may be amusing to the reader,

A young female, generally the daughter of a fetiche man, or priest, is selected for the purpose, who undergoes a probationary penance that continues six months, previous to her admission into

holy orders. During this period, she is initiated by the priests into all the mysteries and chicanery of the religion of their forefathers, which consisted in the worship of the black and white snake, and in the mummery of giving sanctity to bones, rags, &c.

When she appears in public during the period of her probation, her manner is grave and solemn; her skin is painted with a kind of white clay; rows of shells, of various forms and sizes, are hung upon her neck, arms, and ankles; and her loins are girt with long grass, which reaches to her knees. A dwelling is provided for her, in which she eats and sleeps alone, and into which none are admitted but fetiche men and women.

At the expiration of the six months, a large assemblage of men, women, and children, accompanied by the various orders of priesthood, and the musicians belonging to the town, takes place, on an open space of ground, to assist at, and also to witness, the last grand ceremony.

Soon after assembling, the women form a circle by joining hands, among whom are the companions of the novitiate's youth, and also her relations, who commence dancing circularly, reversing the movements alternately, after making one complete circle. The dancing is accompanied by the most barbarous and horrid din imaginable,

caused by the musicians beating on drums, tom toms, gongs, and blowing horns manufactured out of elephants' teeth and reeds; to which are added the most strange and uncouth grimaces and contortions of the faces and bodies of the priests, so that a spectator might easily imagine them to be a number of maniacs, who had been turned loose to give effect to the ceremony; and were it not for the presence of the little children, who look on with fear and astonishment depicted in their countenances, would be no bad representation of pandemonium.

The novitiate, soon after dancing commences, is brought out, by apparent force, from a little hut which had concealed her from the spectators, and placed in the centre of the circle formed by the dancing females, from whom she endeavours to escape to the hut whence she had been brought, and this she is allowed to accomplish. This ceremony is repeated three times; an incantation is then delivered by the chief priest, and the farce ends.

One of the conditions by which a female is admitted into this order of priesthood, is that of leading a life of celibacy, and renouncing the pleasures of the world, and but few are admitted to enter it at all; for during a residence of many months at Grewhe, one ceremony only of this kind was performed, at which I was present.

There is a striking similarity in the conditions imposed on these poor deluded African women who are admitted into the priesthood, and many of those nuns who, in Catholic Europe, are forced to take the veil; only the former are instruments in the hands of fraud and oppression; while the others are too often the victims of domestic tyranny and ambition. But the lot of the savage African is far superior to that of the civilized European; for the former, notwithstanding the restraints imposed on her, can enjoy the sweets of personal liberty, and has some scope for the play of her natural affections; whereas the latter is shut within the gloomy walls of a prison, where her short life is passed away in vain regret, and in the society of immolated beings, who are as melancholy and desponding as herself.

The natives of Dahomy are a fine looking people, docile, and to their superiors submissive even to extreme servility, which arises, no doubt, from the tyrannical form of their government, as it holds every man's life in the state disposable at will, and every man's daughter subservient to the sensual pleasure of a despotic savage, who is their Governor. These people are industrious, and apply themselves to agriculture, as well as to the manufacturing of articles for domestic use; and the market of Grewhe exhibits as plentiful a

supply of native produce, as the market at Ardrah.

An extraordinary custom prevails among the women of Dahomy, that of causing a considerable elongation of the nymphæ by artificial means. Barrow states, in his travels in South Africa, such a conformation to be common to the Hottentots, but that in them it is natural. Many of the Dahomian women have very fine persons. The tattow, or national mark, is a single line drawn from the hair over the forehead, to the root of the nose.

The town of Ardrah, so called by the natives, or Porto Nova by the Portuguese, is situated between Wydah and Lagos, being forty-six miles from the former, and fifty from the latter, and lies in latitude $6^{\circ} 26'$ north, and longitude $3^{\circ} 42'$ east of Greenwich, and distant from the sea about twenty-five miles.

The first mile of road from the beach is sandy; it is then necessary to embark in a canoe, to navigate a swamp half a mile wide, which is the eastern termination of the lagoon that has its embouchure at Popo. This swamp is entirely covered with wood, except the tortuous passage through which the canoes pass; and alligators, that are the fetiche of the Ardrahs, are to be seen in it in great numbers. The remainder of the road

passes over a variegated country, part of which is thickly wooded and swampy, but the greatest portion of it is open and park-like, perfectly level and interspersed with trees. The village of Wacca is two-thirds of the distance from the sea to the lake, and there is another village on the margin of the lake, near which is the place of embarkation for those persons going to Ardrah. When I arrived at the latter village, I embarked in a canoe, and passed down a muddy creek; the canoe-men were often compelled to get out, and haul the canoe along; we were not long, however, in emerging from the swamp upon the surface of a beautiful lake, the eastern extremity of which communicates with Lagos river, about one mile from the sea. Opposite to Ardrah, the breadth of the lake is three miles; but three or four miles to the westward of it, it spreads out from north to south ten or twelve miles, and has in this part a number of islands scattered upon its surface.

Ardrah seemed to me to be the most populous town (Benin excepted) of any that I had visited in Africa, and contains probably from seven to ten thousand inhabitants.

It is built in a very irregular manner, as towns in Africa generally are. The houses are made of clay, detached from each other, with a high wall

surrounding each, in many of which are loop-holes for musketry. The form of the town is elliptical, or rather is half an ellipsis, having the lake for the longest diameter, and along the line of its circumference there is a deep ditch, the clay from which has been raised into a wall about four feet high, and as many thick, some part of which is loop-holed.

Between the town, on its north-western extremity, and the wall, are many well-cultivated fields, producing calavancies, maize, and pumpkins. The surrounding country is champaign and finely wooded, the soil sandy and superficial, and the subsoil is a bed of red loam or marl.

The morning after my arrival, and just as the rays of the sun were gilding the horizon, I was much surprised to see a group of blacks performing the ceremonies of the Mahomedan religion, because I had never seen any other religion prevail than Paganism, in any of those towns in Africa where I had been. I, however, found that many people in Ardrah professed the Mussulman faith, and were dressed after the Moorish fashion, with large loose trowsers, short shirt, and sash.

Outside and parallel with the wall, at the north-west extremity of the town, is the road which leads to Eyeo, a country of great extent, and inhabited by a powerful and warlike nation ;

the capital of which, according to the natives' account, lies about N. N. E. from Ardrah, at the distance of nine days' journey, or 180 miles, allowing a traveller to proceed at the rate of twenty miles a day.

To the king of Eyeo the Ardrah people pay tribute, as he protects them from the incursions of the Dahomians, whose king has always been very jealous of their rivalry in trade.

The water of the lake is impregnated with salt, and unfit for domestic purposes, except during the rainy season ; wells have therefore been made in different parts of the town, which is a very unusual thing in this part of Africa.

The natives of Ardrah are industrious, and have acquired some proficiency in the arts, particularly in manufacturing cotton and iron.

Cloth of various patterns, though simple, are made by them, both of cotton and grass, but chiefly of the former, into which they frequently weave threads taken from the red India silk taffity, having no red dye which they can render permanent. The plant which yields indigo is indigenous to the soil, in fixing the colour extracted from which, they show much practical knowledge, although the process differs but little from the mode which Mr. Park saw adopted at Sansanding. Cotton thread is always dyed before

it is woven and dressed. Kid-skins are tied all over in knobs very tight, then soaked for some days in a strong dye, which, when untied, exhibit a pattern resembling a star, or rays of blue and white radiating from round blue spots. There are three or four smiths in the town, where are made hoes, cutlasses, nails, bolts, hinges, staples, and bits for bridles.

The bellows used by the smiths are ingeniously contrived, consisting of two rough goat-skins set in the ground, two feet asunder, and resembling in form, when inflated, two kettle-drums reversed. A stick about four feet long is introduced into the upper part of each skin, to which it is tied. The sticks serve as handles, and are moved alternately by a man having one in each hand. A pipe leads from each skin, and terminates in another pipe before reaching the fire; at the junction the pipes are not air-tight, so that one skin by this means receives air while the other discharges it.

Soap is manufactured of wood-ashes and palm-oil; sandals of bull and cow-hides; baskets of various forms are ingeniously wrought and manufactured; also earthenware for culinary and other purposes; besides stools, canoes, and mats.

A singular custom prevails here, that of anointing occasionally the interior walls of houses with fresh cow-dung; a useful practice, for it dries

quickly, has by no means an unpleasant smell, and fills up crevices, which would otherwise be tenanted by noxious and troublesome insects.

The Ardrahs are in their persons good-looking, muscular, and very black; and their tattow, or national mark, consists of three knobs of skin raised horizontally from each temple. Their dress is simple, and like that of Africans in general, except in the case of those who have adopted the Moorish costume.

The face of the country about Ardrah, as I have before remarked, is extremely beautiful and very fertile, producing all the necessaries of life in great abundance, and many of the valuable fruits and plants found in tropical climates, viz. the sugar-cane, the plants which yield cotton and indigo, pine-apples, guavas, limes, cocoa-nuts, papaws, sour-sops, &c. and a tree which yields a fruit (called by the natives soosee) resembling in form a large pippin. When ripe, it bursts at the outer extremity in a quadratje form, and exhibits four seeds very like Windsor-beans when husked. These beans are the only parts of the fruit which are eaten, and are considered very nutritious. Strangers dislike them at first, but soon become very fond of them. They are peculiar to this part of Africa, that is, to Ardrah and Grewhe.

The market, particularly on the great market-day, which is every sixth day, presents a scene

of activity and bustle not often to be seen in African towns, and bears a strong resemblance to the markets held on Sundays in the West Indies, which are attended by the slaves from the country, who bring to them their little stock of ground-provisions, poultry, and fruit, for sale; and where may be also seen mixed with them the hucksters belonging to the town, retailing European manufactures, salt beef, pork, and herrings.

The avenues leading to the market at Ardrah, have commonly in them men selling bundles of firewood, earthenware of native manufacture, pigs and goats. The market, which is spacious, is occupied by a number of traders; many of whom have stalls covered with mats to protect them from the sun and rain, and on which are exhibited for sale the manufactures of Europe and India, of various kinds, such as handkerchiefs, both red and blue, from Manchester; linens, silesias from Germany, silk handkerchiefs, cuttanees and taffities from Madras; tobacco from the Brazils, in rolls, and also manufactured into snuff; iron, coral, cowries, beads, &c. There are also exhibited for sale, cloth from Eyeo and Jaboo; spun cotton, dyed and otherwise; kid-skins, dyed and dressed; sandals, hoes, clubs curiously carved and ornamented, straw hats, stools, pot-ash, soap, and indigo leaves and stalks; also corn, calavancies, peas, yams, plaintains, palm oil, ground nuts,

pine-apples, ducks, fowls, Guinea hens, venison, beef, pork, honey, and palm wine.

The Eyeos are a fine race of people, and are well-skilled both in agriculture and in manufacturing articles for domestic purposes. The country which they inhabit is of great extent, being bordered on the north east by Housa, on the south west by Dahomy, and the influence of its government extends to the south as far as the sea by way of Ardrah.

The cloth manufactured in Eyeo is superior, both for variety of pattern, colour and dimensions, to any made in the neighbouring states; and some of the articles wrought by them in iron exhibit much skill and ingenuity. It surprised me to find the Eyeo women, as well as those of Housa, acquainted with the taste of cheese, and the mode of making it, which left no doubt in my mind that it was an article of common consumption in these countries.

The Eyeos are extremely black and muscular, and generally above the middle size; in disposition they are mild, docile, and submissive. Their country mark on the face consists of three short cuts, each about one and a half inch long, running obliquely on each side of the mouth.

The natives of Housa are of the middle size, generally thin and active, with high cheek-bones.

! Their country mark consists of a great number of *very small lines* cut longitudinally upon each cheek from the temples to the chin. They are an agricultural people, and inhabit a fertile country of great extent, and very populous.

The town of Lagos is built on a bank or island, which appears to have been raised from Cradoo Lake by the eddies, after the sea and periodical rains had broken down the boundary which separated it from the ocean. The island is of inconsiderable size, about four miles from the sea, and a few feet only above the level of the lake at high water, which is so shallow that boats of only ten or fifteen tons burthen can approach the town. An active traffic in slaves was carried on at this place, particularly after Ardrah was deserted by the French traders.

It has always been the policy of the Lagos people, like those of Bonny, to be themselves the traders and not brokers. They therefore go in their canoes to Ardrah and Badagry, and to the towns situated at the north-east extremity of Cradoo Lake, where they purchase slaves, Jaboo cloth, and such articles as are required for domestic consumption. The necessaries of life are here extremely abundant and cheap, and are brought chiefly from the country on the northern margin of Cradoo Lake, which communicates

with Jaboo, a very fertile kingdom, and inhabited by an agricultural and manufacturing people.

It is these people who send so much cloth to Lagos and Ardrah, which the Portuguese traders from the Brazils purchase for that market, and which is held there in much estimation by the black population; probably not only on account of its durability, but because it is manufactured in a country which gave many of them, or their parents, birth, as the Portuguese have always carried on an extremely active trade in slaves at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos.

The horrid custom of impaling alive a young female, to propitiate the favour of the goddess presiding over the rainy season, that she may fill the horn of plenty, is practised here annually. The immolation of this victim to superstitious usage takes place soon after the vernal equinox, and along with her are sacrificed sheep and goats; which, together with yams, heads of maize, and plantains, are hung on stakes on each side of her. Females destined thus to be destroyed, are brought up for the express purpose in the king's or caboceer's seraglio; and it is said, that their minds have previously been so powerfully wrought upon by the fetiche men, that they proceed to the place of execution with as much cheerfulness as those infatuated Hindoo women who are burnt with their husbands. One was

impaled while I was at Lagos, but of course I did not witness the ceremony. I passed by where her lifeless body still remained on the stake a few days afterwards.

Male dogs are banished to the towns opposite to Lagos, for if any are caught there, they are immediately strangled, split, and trimmed like sheep, and hung up at some great man's door, where rows of the putrid carcasses of their canine brethren are often to be seen. They are fetiche, and intended to countervail the machinations of the evil spirit.

At the eastern extremity of the town, there are a few large trees, which are covered with the heads of malefactors. The skulls are nailed to their trunks and large limbs, and present a very appalling spectacle.

The town swarms with water-rats from the lake, which burrow in the ground, and are so audacious that they not unfrequently make their appearance under the dinner table of Europeans before the cloth is removed.

The mouth of the river is very shallow and dangerous, and many boats belonging to English vessels, with their crews and cargoes, have been lost in entering it. The French and Portuguese, more prudent, always land their goods from canoes, upon the beach to the eastward of the river's mouth, and pay the portage to the town.

They also warp the fresh water for the use of their vessels through the surf, rather than risk the lives of the seamen by sending them for it in boats into the river.

The population of the town of Lagos may amount to 5000; but there are two or three populous villages on the north side of Cradoo Lake, over which the caboceer of Lagos has jurisdiction. This chief's power is absolute, and his disposition tyrannical to excess; his name is Cootry.

Cowries are the medium of exchange, and calculations are made in ounces and ackies, as on the Gold Coast; 16,000 cowries make an ounce, being the same mode of calculation as that practised at Ardrah, Wydah, and Popo.

The Jaboos inhabit a country situated between Eyeo and Benin, are a fine-looking people, and always seem as if they came from a land of plenty, being stout, healthy, and full of vigour. They are a very industrious people, and manufacture for sale an immense quantity of common Guinea cloths: besides raising cattle, sheep, poultry, corn, and calavancies, with which they supply their neighbours.

Chap. III.

Benin—river—Gatto creek—the capital of Benin—interview with the king—dancing women—customs of the natives—population—affinity to the Heebos—their national mark—Warré—journey there—manufactures—population—audience with the king—his dress—reliques of Catholicism—Bonny—great market for slaves—Heebos, number exported—fairs where they are sold—their character—Old Calabar.

THE country called Benin is of considerable extent, and situated principally to the north and west of the river Formosa, from which a wide and deep creek branches, that leads to a town called Gatto, where vessels trading with Benin have their factories. Craft of the burthen of sixty tons can navigate this creek to within four or five miles of the town, which is distant from the Formosa thirty-five miles; and the first dry land which appears after entering that river is near Gatto, the intermediate country being a morass covered with an impenetrable forest.

It is the practice here for masters of vessels to pay the king a visit soon after their arrival, and such a ceremony is seldom allowed to be dispensed with, as on these occasions the black monarch

receives a handsome present, consisting of a piece of silk damask, a few yards of scarlet cloth, and some strings of coral. Soon after my arrival, therefore, and while my health yet permitted it, I got into my hammock, and at the end of the second day I arrived at the capital of Benin.

The course of the road from Gatto to the capital is about N. E. by N. and the road passes over a country perfectly level, intersected with deep woods and swamps; the distance I estimated to be about forty miles.

The face of the country surrounding Benin bears much the same character as that of Ardrah and Grewhe, except that it is more thickly wooded. The town is large and populous, and contains probably 15,000 inhabitants; it is built very irregularly, the houses being placed without any regard to order, and detached; consequently occupying a large space of ground.

The king of Benin is fetiche, and the principal object of adoration in his dominions.* He occupies a higher post here than the pope does in catholic Europe; for he is not only God's vicegerent on earth, but a god himself, whose subjects both obey and adore him as such, although I believe their adoration to arise rather from fear than from love; as cases of heresy are tried before a much more summary, though a more merciful, tribunal than the inquisition, that abominable engine of catholic

despotism; for delinquency, if proved in the former instance, is punished promptly by the delinquent receiving the *coup de tête*, which terminates instantly both his life and sufferings; whereas the inquisitions of the catholic states of civilized Europe, by a refinement in cruelty, protract the sufferings of the unfortunate victims who may have fallen under their displeasure, by immuring them for years in loathsome dungeons; then applying to their bodies the rack, to extort from them a recantation of their heresies; and afterwards by cutting their throats, as their progenitors, the Spaniards, did the unfortunate natives of Hispaniola and Cuba immediately after baptism, to prevent them from relapsing into apostacy.

King Bowarré, who is now about forty-five years of age, although he is supposed by his poor deluded subjects to have the attributes of a god, (it being a very heinous crime for any of them to entertain an opinion that he, like other mortals, requires either food or sleep,) knew very well that white men, with all their ingenuity, required both; he therefore ordered his nephew's house to be prepared for my accommodation, and sent me a sheep, some fowls, yams, and pumpkins.

The day following my arrival, I had the honour of an interview with him; he received me with much politeness, particularly after the

fine flashy piece of red silk damask, which I had brought with me as a present for him, had been unfolded. The conversation was carried on with the aid of the king's trader, who resides at Gatto, and who had accompanied me from thence to act as my linguist. Trade was the principal, indeed the only subject discussed; for king Bowarré, although he is both a god and a king, trades, nevertheless, in slaves and ivory. The Benin people, like those of Ardrah and Lagos, are great consumers of Brazil tobacco, not any vessels loaded with which had for some time arrived from the Brazils; this was a subject of much conversation, and of deep regret on the part of the king. The audience lasted about one hour; he then presented me with two or three country cloths, and a small piece of ivory, when I made my bow and took my leave of him.

There are in Benin a number of itinerant dancing-women, who were sent to amuse me, and whose performance before the house constantly attracted a crowd of persons of both sexes, who conducted themselves with great decorum during the exhibition. The ladies danced in the fandango style, perhaps not quite so modestly as our fashionable belles, although more in character, by holding in their hands excellent substitutes for castenets, with which they kept time admirably. These consisted of small hollow gourds, over

which are spread nets having small peas strung on the sides of the meshes ; holes at the top received the forefingers of their right hands, with which the gourds were shaken, and occasionally struck against the palms of their left hands, beating responses to the tunes sung by the dancers.

The king and his principal courtiers are ostentatious in their dress, wearing damask, taffity, and cuttanee, after the country fashion. Coral is a very favourite ornament in the royal seraglio, which is always well filled ; and the women, like those of the Heebo nation, wear a profusion of beads, if they can by any means obtain them.


Human sacrifices are not so frequent here as in some parts of Africa ; besides those immolated on the death of great men, three or four are annually sacrificed at the mouth of the river, as votive offerings to the sea, to direct vessels to bend their course to this horrid climate.

The number of slaves obtained at Benin was at one period very considerable ; but the extreme unhealthiness of the country was, I apprehend, the chief cause why the English trade at this place declined. The medium of exchange is salt, and calculations are made in pawns, one of which is equal to a bar in Bonny, or 2s 6d sterling.

The land about the town of Benin is fertile, although but little of it is cultivated. Sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, and yams, are plentiful

and cheap; there is here also a breed of small cattle.

What country, or of what description, or inhabited by what nation, bounds the north of that inhabited by the Heebos, I could never obtain any satisfactory account; but it is certain, that there are not any slaves sold at Bonny that pass from the interior through it. The kingdom of Benin may be called its western boundary, although its inhabitants and their language bear a striking affinity to the Heebos. The colour of their skins is somewhat darker, though much lighter than the Jaboos or Eyeos.

The national mark is  on each temple, and three very extensive scars on the abdomen, above the umbilical chord.

I left New Town, which is situated on the left bank of the river Formosa, or Benin, early in the morning, in the month of February, having the captain of the river for my guide and protector, in order to visit the king of Warré.

New Town is placed about eighteen miles from the mouth of the river, and is in the territory and under the jurisdiction of the king of Warré; and the captain, our guide, derives his power and consequence from being placed there to receive the king's duties, which are very moderate, from vessels visiting the Formosa for the purposes of trade.

As the journey to the capital would occupy two days and one night, we took every thing requisite to render ourselves comfortable during the time we should be in the canoe which conveyed us, and which had over it an awning made of mats, that protected us from the intensity of the rays of the sun, and the heavy dews of the night. Our canoe proceeded at about the rate of four miles an hour, taking an east course along creeks, some of them both wide and deep, and others barely of sufficient magnitude to allow our small bark to navigate them.

During our passage to Warré, we crossed two rivers, which joins the sea to the northward of, but near Cape Formosa; and we only saw two small villages on the whole extent of the road to that town.

This country is covered with an impenetrable forest, which grows upon land that seems composed of alluvion; and even in the middle of the dry season, water covers a large portion of its surface nearly to the depth of a foot.

We arrived at Warré about five o'clock the following day. This town is situated on a beautiful island, about five miles in circumference, and which might have fallen from the clouds in the midst of a desert; for it is a little elevated above the surrounding country before described,

is well cultivated, and has much the appearance of an extensive park.

The subsoil of the island is composed of a tenacious red clay, from which the inhabitants manufacture jars for holding water, and utensils of various forms, for domestic purposes. These are baked in ovens, constructed of wood, placed in the open air, and the oven is consumed while the pots are baking. From the great quantity we saw manufactured, earthenware must constitute here a considerable article of trade.

Much trade is carried on here with the natives of Bonny and New Calabar, who come in their canoes for that purpose; and the slaves obtained by them are principally composed of the natives of Allakoo, who are called at Bonny the brass country negroes, from the circumstance of the neptunes, or large brass pans, taken from Europe to Bonny, being requisite for this particular trade. These neptunes are used, during the dry season, by the creek and surrounding country people, for the purpose of evaporating sea-water to obtain its salt, which is here the medium of exchange, and a great trade is carried on in this article with the interior country. These people assemble at the mouths of the river, where they construct huts and carry on their manufacture.

The capital of Warré is divided into two towns, distant from each other half a mile. The most

populous one is that in which the king resides, and the combined population amounts probably to 5000 souls.

We had lodgings prepared for us at the house of our guide's father, and soon after our arrival, refreshments were sent us by the king, accompanied by a message, that he would be glad to see us the following day. We accordingly waited on him, (our guide acting as linguist,) and arrived at his house about mid-day. After passing through five or six apartments, of various forms and sizes, we were ushered into the audience chamber, where we found his sable majesty fully prepared for the occasion, and seated on a low stool, placed on a kind of platform, raised about eighteen inches above the floor. A boy was holding a pink silk umbrella over his head, and another was brushing away flies with an elephant's tail. To our extreme surprise, we found the king rigged out in the European style, and wanting nothing to complete the dress but a shirt and a neckcloth.

The king, whose name is Otoo, appeared about sixty years of age, his countenance mild and intelligent, and his person of the middle size, inclined to corpulency. He had on a white satin waistcoat trimmed with silver lace, a silk purple coat much embroidered, black satin small clothes with knee buckles, coarse thread stockings, shoes and buckles, and a large black hat trimmed round

the edge with red feathers; all of which appeared to us of Portuguese fabric, except the coat and waistcoat, which, there is little doubt, had, at a former period, been worn by some noble peer or knight at the court of St. James's.

Our audience continued about an hour, when king Otoo dismissed us with much courtesy, and requested, that while we remained at Warré we would visit him daily.

On entering the first apartment of the palace, we were much surprised to see placed on a rude kind of table, several emblems of the catholic religion, consisting of crucifixes, mutilated saints, and other trumpery. Some of these articles were manufactured of brass, and others of wood. On inquiring how they came into their present situation, we were informed, that several black Portuguese missionaries had been at Warré, many years since, endeavouring to convert the natives into Christians; and the building in which they performed their mysteries, we found still standing.

A large wooden cross, which had withstood the tooth of time, was remaining in a very perfect state, in one of the angles formed by two roads intersecting each other. We could not learn that the Portuguese had been successful in making proselytes; indeed, king Otoo's subjects appeared to trouble themselves very little about religion of any kind.

The government, although monarchical, appeared to us mild; and, from the apparent equality and freedom that existed among the natives generally, to partake more of the republican form than the monarchical. Polygamy is common here, as in other parts of Africa; and the number of wives which the black monarch had exceeded sixty.

The town of Bonny is placed on the left bank of a river, about five miles from the sea. It is built on a morass, (in fact, the surrounding country is little else,) having the river on the west, and a creek to the north, which leads to Little Bonny, a branch of which also communicates with the river Adony.

This place is the wholesale market for slaves, as not fewer than 20,000 are annually sold here; 16,000 of whom are natives of one nation, called Heebo, so that this single nation has not exported a less number of its people, during the last twenty years, than 320,000; and those of the same nation sold at New and Old Calabar, probably amounted, in the same period of time, to 50,000 more, making an aggregate amount of 370,000 Heebos. The remaining part of the above 20,000 is composed of the natives of the brass country, called Allakoos, and also of Ibbibbys or Quaws.

Fairs, where the slaves of the Heebo nation are obtained, are held every five or six weeks at several villages, which are situated on the banks

of the rivers and creeks in the interior, and to which the traders of Bonny resort to purchase them.

The preparation necessary for going to these fairs, generally occupies the Bonny people some days. Large canoes, capable of carrying 120 persons, are launched and stored for the voyage. The traders augment the quantity of their merchandize by obtaining from their friends, the captains of the slave ships, a considerable quantity of goods on credit, according to the extent of business they are in the habit of transacting. Evening is the period chosen for the time of departure, when they proceed in a body, accompanied by the noise of drums, horns, and gongs. At the expiration of the sixth day, they generally return, bringing with them 1500 or 2000 slaves, who are sold to Europeans the evening after their arrival, and taken on board the ships.

The Heebos, to judge by the immense number annually sent into slavery, inhabit a country of great extent, and extremely populous, the southern boundary of which may be comprised between Cape Formosa and Old Calabar; and it is very probable, that the towns at the mouths of the rivers along this coast, including New Calabar and Bonny, were peopled originally from the Heebo country; in fact, Amacree, the king of

New Calabar, and Pepple, king of Bonny, are both of Heebo descent, as well as many of the principal traders at both these places.

These towns were probably first built and occupied for the purpose of obtaining salt by the evaporation of sea-water; because the country, from the sea-board to fifty miles into the interior of it, is a vast morass, heavily timbered, and unfit, without excessive labour, to produce sufficient food, but for a very scanty population; and as the trade in slaves increased, these towns, particularly Bonny, grew into importance. The language also spoken at these places varies but little from that spoken by the Heebos, which proves a common origin.

The country inhabited by a nation called Ib-bibby or Quaw, (the mocoos of the West Indies) bounds it on the east. To this nation the Heebos express a strong aversion, and call them cannibals. They certainly have a ferocious aspect, and their appearance and disposition would lead a person to suppose, that in their own country they lead a wild, predatory life. Whenever insurrection has taken place on board of a slave ship at Bonny, they have always been found to be the ringleaders, and often the only slaves concerned in it, the Heebos remaining passive spectators. Contrary to the latter, they have very black skins, and their

teeth filed so as to resemble those of a saw. The females are equally mischievous and ferocious as the men.

The Heebos, in their persons, are tall and well-formed, many of the women symmetrically so; and may be distinguished from the other tribes of Africans by their skins having generally a yellow, bilious cast, although varying in some instances to a deep black. Their dispositions are naturally timid and desponding, and their despair on being sent on board of a ship is often such, that they use every stratagem to effect the commission of suicide, and which they would often accomplish, unless narrowly watched; they, however, by mild treatment, soon become reconciled to their floating prisons.

A class of Heebos, called Breeché, and whom many have very erroneously considered to be a distinct nation, masters of slave-ships have always had a strong aversion to purchase; because the impression made on their minds, by their degraded situation, was rendered more galling and permanent from the exalted rank which they occupied in their own country, and which was thought to have a very unfavourable influence on their ship-mates and countrymen in misfortune.

Breeché, in the Heebo language, signifies gentleman, or the eldest son of one, and who is

not allowed to perform in his own country any menial office. He inherits, at his father's death, all his slaves, and has the absolute control over the wives and children which he has left behind him. Before attaining the age of manhood, his forehead is scarified, and the skin brought down from the hair to the eye-brows, so as to form a line of indurated skin from one temple to the other. This peculiar mark is distinctive of his rank, the ordinary mark of the Heebo being formed by numerous perpendicular incisions on each temple, as if the operation of cupping had been often performed.

Combined with timid dispositions, these people have delicate constitutions, on which disease acts powerfully. Dysentery, to which they seem peculiarly liable, and which is frequently epidemic, makes dreadful havock among them when they are assailed by it. They are also very subject to ophthalmia, having all the peculiarities and character of the Egyptian disease of the same name.

The town off which the ships anchor in Old Calabar river, is called Duke's Town, and is about fifty miles from the sea: the town where the king resides, which is called King's Town, is a few miles to the N. E. of the former.

The people of Old Calabar have, for a long period, dealt in the productions of the soil, as also

in slaves; and have exported annually seven or eight hundred tons of palm-oil, besides barwood. It is probable, that their attention was first directed to the manufacture of palm-oil, in large quantities, in consequence of Bonny becoming the great slave-market, and monopolizing the trade in slaves, which Old Calabar carried on to a considerable extent before it; but which the chiefs of Old Calabar lost, by exacting from the vessels trading there, exorbitant duties or customs.

Many of the natives write English, an art first acquired by some of the traders' sons, who had visited England, and which they have had the sagacity to retain up to the present period. They have established schools and schoolmasters, for the purpose of instructing in this art the youths belonging to families of consequence.

Chap. IV.

The island of Fernandipo—Princes—St. Thomas—Annabona—Majumba—singular appearance of the natives—King Cole—Malemba—the town—salubrity of its climate—local advantages for colonizing—natives—their character.

THE north-east end of the island of Fernandipo bears south-west from the high land of Cameroons, distance ten leagues.

This island has considerable elevation, and several of the hills, which have conical forms, are probably of volcanic origin. They rise apparently 2000 feet above the level of the sea, and are covered with wood to their summits. This high land is often visible from Bonny Bar, a distance of twenty leagues.

It has been peopled from the neighbouring continent by malefactors and run-away slaves, who are determined to sell their liberty dearly, and any persons attempting to deprive them of it, will have cause to regret their temerity.

The Spaniards, or Portuguese, had once a footing upon it, but were compelled to abandon it. It is very fruitful, yielding, on the low lands

great abundance of yams, of a very fine quality. Hogs, goats, and poultry, are also plentiful and cheap. No person ought to land upon it without being protected by a powerful escort, well armed, and even then it will be necessary to be constantly on his guard.

The island of Princes bears S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. from Fernandipo, distance twenty-eight leagues, and belongs to the crown of Portugal. It has considerable elevation, and the hills are conical, and wooded to their summits. The harbour, which is on the east side of the island, is excellent, partially exposed to the violence of tornadoes; but as the anchoring-ground is composed of a stiff tenacious clay, and the mouth of the harbour narrow, which prevents much sea setting into it, it rarely occurs that any accident happens to the shipping. Two small redoubts defend the entrance, and are garrisoned by a black militia.

The natives are generally black, and the few coloured people that are natives, are of a mixed race; the former are principally slaves, and speak a patois language, partly Portuguese and partly African.

There are a few schooners of fifty or sixty tons burthen, which trade with the neighbouring continent for slaves and ivory.

The island is thickly wooded, and, where cultivated, yields abundance of calavancies and ma-

nioc, from the latter of which is manufactured farina. In calavancies and farina the natives deal largely with those vessels that call for refreshments. The tide rises and falls four feet, and the climate is very unhealthy. The water procured here is very good, and conveniently situated for getting on board.

The island of St. Thomas is of considerable extent and great fertility; it bears south-west from the island of Princes, distance twenty-seven leagues.

The hills of this island are high, conical, and covered with wood; the face of the low country, at the north-east end, is undulating and adorned with luxuriant verdure, and exhibits many fine plantations of the sweet casavi and calavancies, also groves of cocoa-nut and plantain. St. Thomas is sometimes visited by slave-ships requiring refreshments and water; but, as tornadoes blow here with unusual violence, and the bay where vessels anchor is open and entirely exposed to their violence, they in general call at Princes island in preference, particularly during the tornado season. The town of Chaves, at the bottom of the bay is the usual place where the governor-in-chief resides, and there is a tolerable fortification to defend it, garrisoned by a motley militia.

The population is chiefly black, the major part of whom are slaves.

The island of Annabona is distant from St. Thomas thirty-two leagues, bearing south-west southerly. It is a beautiful little island, and inhabited wholly by blacks, who call themselves subjects of the crown of Portugal.

There is an open bay on the north-east side, where vessels may anchor in twenty-five fathoms water, about a quarter of a mile from the shore. Vessels from the Bight of Benin call here sometimes, and obtain a few goats, poultry, and cocoanuts. Water is difficult to get, in consequence of the heavy surf, and that in the vicinity of the bay is impregnated with saline matter, which renders it unwholesome.

The island bears the form of a cone, round the base of which there is thrown out towards the sea-shore, a narrow margin, about a quarter of a mile in breadth, which is covered with groves of cocoa-nut and plantain: the cone itself is beautifully wooded to the summit.

The natives appear simple and inoffensive, and obtain their subsistence chiefly from the sea. Among them are to be observed many dreadful cases of lues, for the cure of which they do not seem to be in the possession of any specific.

The town is prettily situated on the margin of the bay, in a grove of cocoa-nut trees, and contains probably three or four hundred inhabitants.

Majumba, on the coast of Angola, lies in latitude $3^{\circ} 35'$ south, and longitude $11^{\circ} 20'$ east of the meridian of Greenwich. The anchorage is a fine sandy bay, about two miles deep, and open to the westward.

There is a small river which runs parallel to the beach on the south side of the bay, and which joins the sea at its eastern extremity.

We anchored at this place early in October, when the rains had just commenced, and on landing were not a little surprised and amused at the grotesque figures which many of the natives made, who had on their heads large wigs, made apparently of the bristles of pigs, not a hair of which had a curve in it, and at the extremity of each stood a dew-drop, for it was a misling rain, with now and then a dash of sunshine. At this time the wigs made a very brilliant appearance; they were of all colours, although red and white were the predominant ones, which, contrasted with the black visages and naked bodies of the wearers, gave them a most ludicrous appearance; they had been purposely made and carried to Majumba on speculation, by a Captain Higgin, of London, an eccentric character.

The articles of trade here consist principally of redwood and ivory, both of which are considered of a superior quality.

The town is very small, and may contain a population of one thousand inhabitants. It is built on the south side of the river, which is very narrow and shallow, and abounds in mullet and shell-fish, which, with yams, constitute the chief food of the natives.

The first time we paid a visit to king Cole, the day was wet, and we found the sable monarch, with half-a-dozen of his courtiers, in a wigwam, seated round a fire made of green wood, which filled the palace with so pungent a smoke, that we were glad to escape from the kingly residence without much ceremony.

The country is very low, and thickly wooded, and the inhabitants seem very poor.

That part of Africa lying between the river Loanga Luiza and Cabenda Hook, comprises an extent of sea-coast of nine leagues. Malemba is in the centre, and lies in latitude $5^{\circ} 24'$ south, and $12^{\circ} 20'$ east of the meridian of Greenwich, and may be justly considered as the Montpellier of western Africa.

The trading town of Malemba, which is under the dominion of a Chenoo or chief, residing in a town about twenty miles from the sea, called Chingelé, is built near the margin of a cliff, that rises abruptly from the sea-shore to an elevation of one hundred feet, and is entirely composed of a dusky red argillaceous earth.

On gaining the summit of this cliff, an extensive and beautiful plain presents itself, as far as the sight can reach to the east and south. To the north the country is broken with the windings of the Loanga Luiza river, the margins of which are finely wooded. The plain is covered with a luxuriant grass, and clumps of trees are scattered upon its surface, having the appearance of being planted by the hand of man, to afford him shelter from the sun and rain, and to adorn the landscape.

The climate of Malemba, when compared with that of any other part of Africa which I have visited, is very salubrious, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere and soil, and the absence of those deep forests so common in other districts: masters of vessels, and their crews, trading here, have, in consequence, almost uniformly enjoyed good health.

If salubrity of climate, then, were the only advantage which Malemba possessed over other parts of Africa between the rivers Senegal and Congo, it would well deserve the consideration of his Majesty's government, in the event of contemplating the establishment of another colony, besides that of Sierra Leone, of the negroes captured in vessels trading for slaves contrary to law; whether their views might not be advantageously directed hither, as a place where the experiment would be more likely to be attended with success

SKETCH of

MALEMBA.



Nautic Leagues

Lagoon

Cabenda

Cabenda Hook

Place for a Settlement
Lat 5.24 South
Long. 12.20 East

Malemba

Rioango Luiza



than on the Gold Coast; because it would be here that those Europeans, whose province it would be to watch over an infant colony so composed, would enjoy that state of health so necessary to enable them to superintend, and direct personally, and with proper effect, the physical energies of those Africans committed to their care.

The Gold Coast is nearly, if not quite, as unhealthy as Sierra Leone; and if the gentlemen sent out by the African committee to Cape Coast Castle, were lodged, on their first arrival from Europe, one mile in the interior of the country, instead of within the walls of that Castle, the fact would too soon be fatally verified.

The superior healthiness of the Castle itself may be accounted for by its southern rampart-wall being built on a ledge of rocks which project a little way into the sea, and against which rocks the sea beats with great violence, thereby creating at all times a cool and refreshing current of air within the Castle. The sea breeze also blows directly into it, pure as the element over which it wings its course; and, at some seasons of the year, this breeze continues blowing days and nights without intermission.

The natives, too, of Angola and of Malemba, and Cabenda in particular, are a mild, tractable, inoffensive people, not at all warlike, and form a

striking contrast to the natives of the Gold Coast, who are turbulent in disposition, averse to innovation, and over whom the forts have not any control beyond the reach of their guns.

Cabenda bay, formed by the projection of Cabenda Hook, a cape to the west, is an excellent shelter for shipping, and boats can land there at any time, and very generally also under the point at Malemba. The river Loanga Luiza has also the appearance of having a navigable entrance, although I believe it has not yet been explored.

These are *local advantages* which the Gold Coast does not possess, for there is not a single place on the Gold Coast where a boat can land with safety, except Dixcove and Succundee, and even at these places it is sometimes very dangerous to make the attempt.

The natives, as well as the slaves, obtained at Loango, Malemba, Cabenda, Congo, and Ambrize, on the coast of Angola, have one uniform character and appearance; their skins are black and shining, few of them are to be found above the middle stature, and the majority are below it; in fact, they may be considered as a diminutive people, when compared with the natives of Africa, north of the equator; their countenances are cheerful, placid, and unreflecting; their manners soft and effeminate; and their muscles small and

flaccid, seldom exhibiting the appearance of being enlarged and hardened by labour, or possessing that smooth plumpness which ease and plenty usually produces. To extreme indolence may be principally attributed this falling off in stature and muscular energy from their black countrymen in the north; for, although they live in a soil by no means wanting in fertility, yet are they principally dependant on its spontaneous productions for food, their own labour seldom adding much to the bounty of nature.

Their operations in husbandry are extremely limited, and the edible vegetable which they most cultivate, is the manioc, or sweet casavi, to which may be added, a small quantity of maize, calavancies, and yams; and even when they have *thus* obtained them, they are often too idle to prepare them in a proper manner, by any culinary process, so as to render them nutritious aliment; in consequence of which, their digestive organs are much weakened, and they suffer much from worms, particularly of the tenae species.

When the season proves unfruitful, and the plaintain-tree (the bread-fruit tree of Africa) does not yield its usual abundance of fruit, and on which they chiefly depend for subsistence, the natives of Angola are reduced to extreme want, and feel the effects of a famine which a little industry would have prevented.

On every other part of Africa where slave-ships resort, the captains of these ships depend on the country supplying a certain portion of food adapted to the habits and constitution of the negroes they may obtain at them; on the windward coast they procure rice; on the Gold Coast maize; at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos, maize and calavancies; at Benin, Bonny, Calabar, and Camaroons, yams; but, on the coast of Angola, the natives have no superfluity of provisions to sell, in consequence of which, vessels frequenting it are compelled to bring with them from Europe, sufficient food to feed the negroes while accumulating on board the ships, and during their passage to the West Indies.

To indolence then may be chiefly attributed the diminutive stature of the natives of Angola, because their soil is fertile, and their climate, in many parts, very superior to any north of the equator; and the same cause no doubt operates to produce that effeminacy and want of martial spirit observable in their character. In the West Indies they are valued chiefly for their superior honesty and docility, which renders them faithful domestic slaves and artificers; for field labour, particularly on sugar estates, they are much too lightly framed.

Chap. V.

Seasons—Harmattan—theory concerning it—trade and productions of Africa—language—religion—climate—civilization of the inhabitants, opinion concerning it—Niger—remarks on the various opinions respecting its termination.—Geological observations—Rivers—quadrupeds, birds—insects.

THE seasons in Africa may be divided into wet and dry; the wet commencing, north of the equator, in the month of May, and terminating in July, when the dry begins; although heavy showers of rain fall during the months of October and November, which enables the Africans to reap a second harvest of maize; but the rains commence and terminate six weeks earlier near the equator, than at the northern boundary, where the periodical rains cease.

To the southward of the equator, rains begin to fall in October, which continue till January; but subject to the same variations as north of the equator, the seasons being governed by the earth's place on the ecliptic.

The wet season is always ushered in by tremendous tornadoes, which occur almost daily for

a fortnight or three weeks previous to its commencement.

The harmattan wind blows generally once or twice during the months of January and February; it sometimes lasts a fortnight, but more frequently only three or four days. From Cape de Verd to Cape Palmas, the direction from which this wind blows is north-east; but from the latter place to Benin, E. N. E. by compass.

In one of my passages between the Cape de Verd islands and the continent of Africa, in the month of January, a harmattan commenced, which continued four days. The atmosphere, during this period, was so hazy, that we could not discern any object fifty yards from the vessel, in any direction; but this haze is not like that which accompanies the easterly wind of Europe, but is more intense, for it is occasioned by an impalpable powder floating in the atmosphere, which in this instance adhered to those parts of the sails of the vessel that received the greatest impulse from the wind, and gave them the same colour and appearance as if they had been immersed in a tan-pit. The powder, when collected, had an earthy smell, and its colour very much resembled clay.

On the Gold Coast, as also in the Bight of Benin, the harmattan, or north-eastwardly wind, is not accompanied with so dense a haze as the

one experienced off the Cape de Verd islands ; but is invariably caused by an impalpable powder floating in the atmosphere, in greater or lesser quantities, according to the distance from the desert from which it emanates. When off the Cape de Verds, we were near the western extremity of the great desert of Saharra ; this accounts for the greater quantity of powder floating in the atmosphere during the harmattan, which we there experienced, as there can be little doubt that this dust is raised into the air by whirlwinds from the face of the desert. In fact, I consider it as analogous to the north wind, which prevails occasionally on the coast of Guyana, and also at Jamaica during the same period of the year, but tempered and modified in its passage from Barbary, across the desert, to the western shores of Africa, near the equator. It is the cold wind of the north rushing to the south, where the sun has caused a great expansion of the atmosphere, and consequently destroyed the equilibrium. This wind, on first reaching the great desert from the north, is probably violent, and in displacing the heated air from its surface, creates those whirlwinds which raise into the atmosphere the fine impalpable powder, which occasions the haziness before noticed. The extreme aridity of the desert deprives it also of every particle of moisture ;

therefore, the greediness observable in it afterwards, in absorbing the juices of plants, and the moisture from all bodies with which it comes in contact, may be accounted for. The reduction observable in the temperature of the atmosphere, the thermometer generally falling from five to ten degrees of Fahrenheit's scale, is caused, I presume, by the rapid evaporation going on at this period, and the rays of the sun being obstructed in their passage to the earth, by the state of the atmosphere; for the sun at noon-day may be looked at with the naked eye, and is seen but dimly, as through a smoked glass.

CURRENTS.

THE general direction of the currents between Cape Palmas and Bonny, is easterly, varying in velocity from twelve miles in twenty-four hours, to thirty miles in the same time. From April to September, the current runs with the greatest rapidity to the eastward; but from the latter end of September to March, it sets occasionally to the westward. The harmattan wind is always accompanied by a westwardly current, and a tornado

gives an impulse to the water in the same direction, which frequently continues during a day or two afterwards.

TRADE AND PRODUCTIONS.

Gold.

THE country lying between Picaninny Bassam and Dixcove, both inclusive, may be considered as those parts of the Gold Coast where gold of the finest quality is to be obtained, and where it is often met with in lumps of considerable size, or what is called rock gold, which has often small bits of quartz sticking in it.

From Dixcove to Accra, there is also much of this metal to be procured, but of an inferior quality; and during the slave trade, a considerable proportion of the gold circulated at Cape Coast, Anamaboo, &c. was bought at Great and Little Bassam, Assinee, Appolonia, and Dixcove, by the trading boats belonging to the ships slaving on the Gold Coast, and afterwards bartered for slaves. This gold was then circulated in the Fantee country, adulterated with Fantee gold, a distinction given to the latter for its inferiority.

But little gold is to be seen to the eastward of Accra; in fact, the country does not produce any,

and the use of it is almost unknown to the natives of Wydah, Ardrah, Lagos, and Benin.

The mode used by the natives of the Gold Coast, for separating the gold from the earth which is known to contain it, is by washing in calabashes, precisely after the same manner as Mr. Park saw the operation performed at Kamalia, in his journey to the Niger.

Ivory.

There are few places in western Africa, from Sierra Leone to the Cape of Good Hope, but where this article, obtained from the elephant and seamorse, or sea cow, is to be purchased, although more abundantly in some places than in others; at the different towns on the windward coast, a small quantity only is to be procured. The country extending from Cape Palmas to Cape Three Points, trades in this article to a considerable amount; and from the latter place to Accra, the trade in it is very limited; from Accra to Bonny the trade in it is again extensive, particularly at Popo and Benin. Camaroons is celebrated for its ivory, which is of a very superior quality, being less porous, and more free from flaws than that which is obtained at the former places. A very considerable quantity is procured on the coast of Angola, particularly at Ambrize, Loango, and Majumba.

Palm Oil.

This oil is extracted from the palm-nut, which is about the size, and has the appearance, of a chesnut, but having a large stone in the centre, to which the pulp that covers it, and from which alone the oil is extracted, bears a small proportion. The manner of extracting it, is by throwing the nuts into hot water, then crushing them in wooden mortars, when they are again thrown into hot water, and the oil obtained by squeezing them in the hands in this state, until it floats on the surface, from which it is skimmed. The large alluvial tract of country situated between Lagos and Camaroons is most favourable to the growth of that species of palm which produces it; and a large quantity is annually exported to Liverpool, from Old Calabar and Bonny.

Dyewoods.

Barwood grows in great abundance in the country surrounding Old Calabar, Gaboon, and Majumba; that of the growth of Majumba is held in most estimation, as containing the greatest quantity of colouring matter. Camwood is obtained principally at Sierra Leone and its vicinity.

The indigo plant is indigenous to most parts of Africa, the dye from it is very successfully used by the natives of Ardrah, Eyeo, and Jaboo.

There are many other dyes, particularly a fine bright yellow, which the Africans cannot render permanent, probably from the want of chemical knowledge.

The Cotton Plant and Sugar Cane

Are found growing spontaneously in many parts of Africa; the former might be cultivated with great success, particularly upon the sea coast from Popo to Lagos, and also at Malemba.

Grain, &c.

Rice is the principal grain cultivated on the Windward Coast, maize on the Gold Coast, maize and calavancies on that part extending from the Volta to Benin, and from the latter place to Camaroons, yams.

Pepper.

Besides the pepper common to tropical countries, Africa yields that called Malagetta, or grains of paradise. There is also at Popo and Wydah, a pepper which grows wild, that bears so strong a resemblance to the black pepper of Sumatra, that it might easily be mistaken for it; the only difference is in the size of the berry, that of Sumatra being larger.

Honey and Wax.

The woods on the west coast of Africa, particularly those which have open dry countries in their vicinity, have in them vast quantities of bees, exactly resembling the bees kept in hives in Europe. Therefore, honey and wax are to be had in these places in abundance.

Pot Ash

Might be obtained in any quantity, if it became with the natives of Africa an object of export: the only difficulty they would experience, would be in refining it, and obtaining casks sufficiently tight to pack it in. They manufacture a quantity for their own consumption; and there are some of the plants of the *salsola* species, which grow on the banks of the rivers, that yield, on calcination, an immense quantity of saline matter in proportion to others, from which pot-ash is extracted in America, by a very troublesome process.

Timber.

A species of oak, of excellent quality, and large enough for naval purposes, is to be obtained at Sierra Leone, Bonny, and the Calabars; also on the borders of many of the rivers. Hardwood, adapted for mill-machinery, and such like purposes, is common on the high lands.

LANGUAGE.

THE tower of Babel might have been built on the western shores of Africa, five degrees north of the equator, and its inhabitants dispersed to the north, east, and west, for almost every tribe (and they are innumerable) has a distinct language, unintelligible to the others; and as they have not among them any written character, the different languages spoken can only be learned in those countries where they are used. The enunciation of all that I have heard spoken is soft and harmonious, and the words composing them abound in vowels, and generally terminate in them. Their compound words seldom exceed four syllables, and frequently entire sentences not more. Their language is, of course, adapted to their habits and wants; and as these are extremely few and simple, and nearly similar in all, the construction of the different languages is the same.

RELIGION.

THE prevailing religion on the western coast of Africa is polytheism, and the opinions and feelings of those tribes of Africans, (who believe in good and evil spirits,) concerning the invisible God, are, as may be supposed, extremely vague,

especially when we know that civilized nations find an insurmountable difficulty in embodying words that can convey to the mind, abstractedly, a representation of the all-powerful and beneficent Creator. The evil spirit, contrary to the prevailing opinions of Christians, though emanating probably from the same cause, the blacks conceive invariably to be of a white colour, assuming various forms, to effect various malignant purposes; and the immortality of the soul is one of those metaphysical questions, that never haunts their imagination; consequently, their hopes and fears, as far as respects a future state of existence, have no influence whatever on their moral conduct.

As superstition is the offspring of ignorance, it is to be expected, that the devotion of the poor untutored Africans must be grossly idolatrous. The fetiche men, or priests, are generally cunning, designing fellows, who, by their mummeries of rags and reptiles, keep alive their hopes and fears as best suits their purposes, by which means they cheat them out of their property; or, in combination with their kings and chiefs, too frequently rob them of their liberty also. But, whatever are the religious opinions of neighbouring nations, or however much at variance in form and being the idolatrous object of their worship may be, war seldom arises among them in consequence of a

difference of opinion on this subject, except to the north and in the interior of Africa, where Mahomedanism is known to prevail.

The Dahomians, whose tutelary deity is the leopard, conquered the Grewhes, or Wydahs, whose object of adoration is a snake; yet, when the leopard commits depredations among the flocks of the latter, they destroy it with impunity, as the former do the snake, if troublesome in their houses or poultry-yards. Perhaps this may be accounted for by the king of Dahomy's power being so absolute and uncontrolled, that it requires no support from the priesthood; or else one might suppose, that he would support the leopard order of priests against the priests of the snake, which is not the case.

The alligator is the great fetiche at little Popo, and this reptile sometimes makes free to carry off a child, when bathing in the lagoon at that place. At such times, the fetiche men, in order to support their power and credit, are compelled to take the depredator; and the first alligator they entrap, is passed on to the child's parents as such, and is sacrificed to the manes of the deceased.

The Fantees, who have nearly as many tutelary deities as there are days in the year, yet whose religion hangs more loosely on them than most Africans who have any religion at all, eat the

shark, the New Calabarians' god; and *samya*, (its Fantee name,) they consider as a dish fit to set before a king. The canine race, which are the protecting deities of the Lagos people, are considered, by the natives of Bonny, as the greatest dainties; and the iguana, the Bonnians' object of adoration, is devoured as excellent food by the natives of Benin; and probably if the Ibbibbys, or Quaws, could conveniently get at the monarch of that nation, his godship would fare no better than the shark, the dog, or the iguana.

Circumcision is very commonly practised on the natives of western Africa, and where the Mahomedan religion is not known; and I could never obtain any other information from them relative to this practice, but that it was the custom of their forefathers to be so marked.

CLIMATE.

THE climate of Africa, Malemba, on the coast of Angola, excepted, has been generally found to be extremely prejudicial to the health of newly imported Europeans. There are few persons who have visited Africa, but must have observed the baneful effects of its poisonous atmosphere on those not inured to it, and have seen strangers,

whom curiosity alone has induced to sleep a night or two on shore, fall victims to its malignity.

Sometimes, indeed, a European appears, whose constitution is so happily framed as to adapt itself to any climate, however bad, and who actually enjoys good health without adopting any unusual precaution to preserve it; while his surrounding companions are daily sinking into the grave, and those who survive are to be seen crawling about, more like cadaverous spectres, than human beings endowed with life. The diseases to which Europeans are liable in this climate, are bilious fevers, of the most malignant kind; in recovering from which, the patients, for many months, labour under extreme debility, or, probably, intermitting fever or dysentery. Calomel appears the only safe remedy, administered frequently as a strong cathartic. Emetics are often attended with the worst consequences, because the disease itself is generally accompanied with that irritability of stomach, which it is of the utmost importance to allay, rather than to excite.

This extreme unhealthiness arises from a moist and hot atmosphere, to which western Africa is peculiarly liable, and which is impregnated with marsh miasmata, and the noxious gas evolved from vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, the process of which is constantly going on in a

country lying so near the equator, but little cultivated, and where the woods are so dense as to be impervious to the rays of the sun.

Notwithstanding this climate is found to be so extremely prejudicial to the health of Europeans, the natives appear to enjoy good health, and to live to a tolerably old age. The wet season, like our winter, produces inflammatory attacks of the lungs and pleura, and also cattarrh and mumps. The Africans seem peculiarly sensible of the least change in the temperature of the atmosphere.

When the small-pox makes its appearance, it frequently depopulates entire villages; and, as a disease, it is probably the greatest scourge the Africans have to contend with. It was once so destructive in the Dahomian territory, when the writer was there, that when the common people wished to impress on the minds of their hearers the truth of their assertions, they wished the small-pox might *strike* them, if what they were relating was not true. But the king of Dahomy put a stop to the practice, by ordering the public criers to proclaim, in all the towns of his dominions, his will, that his people should no longer swear by that dreadful malady, as to that cause alone might be attributed its too frequent recurrence.

The common diseases to which the blacks are subject, are yaws, a bad cutaneous disease; also

a contagious pustular eruption, elephantiasis, leprosy, and hernia. But few deformed persons are to be met with, although that *lusus naturæ*, the white negro, born of black parents, is to be seen in almost every populous town. The colour of the skins of these unfortunate persons is a pale ash, evidently arising either from the epidermis or mucous membrane which it covers being diseased, for they appear not to perspire freely; they are also generally purblind, and form an extraordinary contrast to their black parents and companions, in whose opinion they are unfortunately by this malady degraded.

CIVILIZATION.

The progress of civilization, in any country inhabited by savages, depends much on its local situation; in its capability of carrying on a commercial intercourse with enlightened nations, who have it in their power to introduce amongst its inhabitants the arts of civilized life; and climate also will be found powerfully to accelerate or retard this advancement.

Experience has proved that savage nations, inhabiting maritime countries situated in temperate climates, have emerged from a state of barbarism more rapidly than those living within the tropics.

In a climate like that of Britain, where the feverish heats of the torrid zone are never felt, nor the rigours of a Siberian winter experienced, man may be supposed to be most happily placed, for the full developement of his physical and moral energies; and it would hardly be credited at this day, were it not handed down to us by the most authentic written testimony, that when the Romans first invaded Gaul and Britain, they found the natives of these countries clothed in skins, and their bodies tattowed, and daubed with various coloured earths. They found also that horrid custom to prevail, which seems identified with man in a savage state, that of immolating human beings, upon the altars of their gods, by the druids, who were the sacrificing priests. The advantages which climate, locality, and conquest, have bestowed on these nations, it is unnecessary to remark on here, as they are happily very apparent.

Savages inhabiting a tropical climate, require but little raiment or fire; the soil yields almost spontaneously, food adequate to their support; bodily exertion is therefore seldom used by them, except in the pursuit of pleasure; ease and sensual enjoyments are their chief delights, and the extreme heat, consequent on the locality of their country, powerfully contributes to render a state of inactivity pleasurable and even necessary.

The climate of Africa is, therefore, unfavourable to any rapid progress being made in the civilization of its inhabitants.

That the Africans are endowed by nature with faculties as capable of receiving instruction, as the savages inhabiting any other country we are acquainted with, is at this day not to be questioned; although this climate, as before remarked, is unfavourable to either bodily or mental exertion; and the nature of their civil and religious institutions is such, as to place them in a state of extreme degradation, for Africa is a country chiefly inhabited by tyrants and slaves.

The natives of the western shores of Africa, have certainly local advantages very superior to those inhabiting the eastern shores; because they have a free and easy communication with the most enlightened nations of Europe, which the others have not; and however justly the trade in slaves, carried on by Europeans with the former, has been reprobated by enlightened men of all countries, yet it is probable that should the Africans ever become a civilized people, the foundation of their becoming so, will have been laid by the slave-trade.

Because, when the slave-trade is abolished by all those nations who have hitherto carried it on, on the western shores of Africa, it is probable the

chiefs inhabiting those parts, will direct their attention to obtaining from the soil, those products for which they can obtain in exchange such articles as they have been accustomed to receive in barter for slaves; but wherever the trade in slaves exists, the cultivation of the soil and the obtaining the natural and valuable products of the country, for sale to the Europeans, will be neglected. Man is the offspring of pleasure, although in Africa he is too often the child of misfortune; and whether there is a demand for him, as an article of merchandise or otherwise, he will continue to be propagated and reared; and so long as he continues to be an object of commerce, he will be preferred to any other, because he can be obtained without labour. Superior to bales or casks of merchandise, he possesses locomotive powers; carriages or beasts of burthen are unnecessary for his conveyance to the port of embarkation, for he is himself both the article of merchandise and the carrier. He can wind his way through the intricacies of a forest, paddle a canoe across a lake or river, and the only care which devolves on his master, is the prevention of his escape, and the providing the means of subsistence on the road.

It is to be presumed then, that the first approaches of the Africans towards a state of civili-

zation and an amelioration of their condition, will be first observable in those inhabiting the western coast, and after the slave-trade has *totally ceased* to exist. Wars of aggression will become less frequent, as the principal excitement to them will have ceased to operate; and the chiefs will then find it indispensable to direct their attention to the cultivation of the soil, in order to obtain from it for barter, its natural products.

It must, however, be expected, that their exertion in this way will be extremely limited for a considerable period, because Europeans cannot be incorporated with them, so as to set them an example of industry and instruct them in the skill and knowledge necessary, in consequence of the extreme unhealthiness of the climate.



A problem remains yet to be solved respecting the Niger. Where does it terminate? Is it, according to Major Rennel's opinion, lost in the swamps of Wangarra; or, are its waters discharged into the sea, according to Riechard's theory, by the many rivers placed between those of Formosa and Delrey, both inclusive; or, is the Congo still to be considered as its embouchure?

I believe it was Captain Tucky's opinion, that the Congo is not the embouchure of the Niger; although he thought the former river had its source north of the equator, because he found its waters begin to rise in September.

With regard to Riechard's opinion, arguments may be adduced both in its support and against it, although the latter must certainly preponderate. The country through which those rivers pass, that he considers as the embouchures of the Niger, extending from the Formosa to Delrey, and from the sea-shore into the interior, to the distance of fifty miles, has one uniform character, that of a vast alluvial morass, heavily timbered. The country most resembling it, which has come under my own personal observation, is that part of Guyana lying between Cyane and the river Essequibo; and the only difference is, that the former has moderately deep water near the sea coast, while that of the latter is extremely shallow to a considerable distance from the shore.

In the former rivers, as in those of Guyana, I have never observed any extraordinary rise of the water, and the tides ebb and flow in them with the same regularity, except during, or immediately after it has rained heavily on the sea-board; in which case, the ebbs, during neap-tides, run two or three hours longer than the

floods. If, then, the water of the Niger is discharged into the sea, by the rivers on the bight of Benin, it is certain that it does not produce the effect either of accelerating the velocity of their streams, or of augmenting their bulk, but which may probably be accounted for, by its spreading over a vast tract of country, from which there are so many outlets to the sea; and that communicate with each other in the interior, by many wide and deep creeks.

In a recent publication, the rivers Lagos and Bonny have been dignified with the appellation of embouchures of the Niger, and the author of it draws his conclusions from the following premises. "That it is well known, as soon as Lagos and Bonny were opened to the slave-trade, that on the Gold Coast gradually declined, and therefore, as soon as the easy communication by the Niger with those ports, was known to the slave-traders in the interior of the country through which the river bends its course, they gave a decided preference to the cheap and easy conveyance of their merchandise by water to Lagos and Bonny, to the more tedious and expensive journey by land to the Gold Coast."

Now, the number of slaves brought to the Gold Coast for sale, was augmented or decreased,

according to the demand that existed for them, and the tranquillity of those countries from which they were brought, or through which they had to pass, in their journey from the interior to the sea-coast. The real cause of the diminution of the slave-trade on the Gold Coast, arose from the excessive competition that was carried on there, by different European nations; which enhanced the price of negroes so considerably, as to leave but little profit to the merchant, who was compelled to seek a better and cheaper market, which he found on the coast of Angola.

If the trade in slaves had been turned from the Gold Coast to Bonny, from the cause which has been assigned, many of the slaves sold at the latter place, would have been natives of the same nation or nations as those that were brought to the former, whereas three-fourths of all the negroes sold at Bonny were Heebos, the remaining fourth was composed of those of the Ibbibby or Quaw nation, and the Brass country or Allakoo; all of which countries, of which these negroes are natives, are in the immediate vicinity of Bonny. Now the cargoes of the vessels trading on the Gold Coast, were composed of natives of Fantee, Ashantee, of Chamba or Dunco, also of Crepee, obtained at Accra, those of Wassa at Cape Coast and Elmina, and Akims at Winnebah.

Lagos rose only into importance as a place of trade, when the European war and the revolution in France prevented the slave-ships belonging to France carrying on their usual trade at Ardrah; and the latter place derived its consequence from the king of Dahomy monopolizing the trade in slaves in his own dominions, which proving extremely injurious to the interests of both the white and black traders, drove them to the expedient of seeking another market. Ardrah became the refuge of the Wydah traders, and the king of Eyeo, who is much more powerful than the monarch of Dahomy, placed it under his immediate protection, which created a degree of confidence in those traders, that rendered its trade very extensive. When the French, from the cause before assigned, were compelled to relinquish the trade in slaves at Ardrah, the English slave-traders increased in number at Lagos, and the principal supply of slaves at it, was derived from Ardrah, by way of the lake that communicates with Lagos river, and not by the Niger, or any other river that communicates with the Niger.

The negroes obtained from the north-eastward, by Cradoo Lake, are principally of the Jaboo nation, and those obtained at Ardrah were natives belonging to Eyeo, Housa, Dahomy, Mahee, and Ardrah; not a negro of which nations did I

ever see offered for sale on the Gold Coast, that had travelled from the interior, neither did I see any such sold at Bonny. So that the negroes sold on the Gold Coast, belong to nations totally distinct from those sold at Ardrah and Lagos; as those sold at the latter places are from those brought to market at Bonny, which would certainly not be the case, if, as asserted, Lagos and Bonny rivers were embouchures of the Niger, and had a common communication with the same nations in the interior of Africa. Besides, I have never seen, except at Ardrah, any traces of the Mahomedan religion in this part of Africa, which proves the free communication that exists between it and remote nations in the north, but this communication is carried on, on foot and on horse-back.*

Many of the slaves of the Housa nation, with whom I have conversed, both at Ardrah and Lagos, and also on board of vessels slaving there, have invariably stated, that they travelled on foot from their own country through that of Eyeo; and that there is an immense lake in Housa,

* I have little doubt but the Niger might be visited by way of Ardrah and Eyeo, with less personal risk to the traveller, from the natives, than by any other route we are at present acquainted with. Horses are to be obtained at Ardrah, and also natives who understand both the Eyeo and French languages.

which they compared to the sea, that people were frequently days and nights on it without seeing any land, and that the sun is observed to rise and set on its water. They described having seen white people in its vicinity, with long hair like Europeans (meaning Moors, of course,) but I could never learn from them, that Housa had any communication whatever by any river with the sea-coast, by which they could be transported to it.

Slaves of the Housa nation are brought to Ardrah by the Eyeo traders, and then sold, either to European or black traders, belonging to Lagos and Badagry. Their attenuated bodies on their first arrival, proves their journey to have been long, tedious, and exhausting.

GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE shore from Cape Palmas to the high land of Drewin is rocky, although the country to the east and west of Drewin is but little elevated above the sea. The hills of Drewin are of moderate height, rise abruptly from the sea-shore, and appear unconnected with any chain of hills in the interior; for the face of the country from hence to Cape Appolonia, as far as the eye

can reach from the mast-head of a vessel, is extremely low. The rocks of Bereby, St. Andrew, and Drewin, are composed of sand-stone, having quartz pebbles mixed up in it. The low country is composed of red loam, vegetable mould, and sand.

At Appolonia commences a range of hills, or what may be called an undulating country, which continues to Barracoo. Not any of these hills have a greater apparent elevation than four or five hundred feet, and few of them so much, except the Devil's Hill, and that of Ningo: they are all thickly wooded. The rocks along this shore have the same character as those of Drewin, but the hills are principally composed of clay slate. Along this line of country, much of the gold circulated in the Fantee country is obtained.

From the river Volta, to within twenty or thirty miles of the river Formosa, the country is level; and report states such to be the case three or four hundred miles into the interior; it is so low, that on approaching it from the sea, the trees are first visible. The subsoil is generally stiff red clay, covered with vegetable mould and sand, in which a stone the size of a walnut is not to be met with; and those which are employed for grinding corn, are either brought from the Gold Coast, or from the westward, near the Ningo hills, and

often from the Gold Coast. There is a mountain to the north-west of Dahomy, called Boagry, where, I have been informed, stones for grinding corn have also been obtained.

From a point about eight leagues to the westward of the river Formosa, commences that large alluvial tract of land which extends to the southward to Cape Formosa, and from thence to the eastward to the river Del Rey about 200 miles, and from the sea-board into the interior of the country, sixty or seventy. It is covered with an impenetrable forest, growing out of a muddy soil; much of which is covered with water, some inches deep. A few leagues to the southward of Del Rey, there are some moderately high hills, called the high land of Camaroons, the altitudes of which have been much magnified by some travellers, who were probably deceived, in consequence of the surrounding country being a few feet only above the level of the sea, which gave them, in their eyes, a degree of consequence they would not have merited had they been placed in an elevated country. These hills have the appearance of being of volcanic origin, and no doubt are, as well as those of the islands of Fernandipo, St. Thomas, Princes, and Annabona, which all lie nearly in a direct line from each other, extending from the north-east to the south-west, to the distance of one hundred nautical leagues.

RIVERS.

The first river of any consequence, to the eastward of Cape Palmas, except that at Cavally, is St. Andrew's, which has a very shallow entrance, navigable only by small craft.

Cape Lahoo ; the entrance narrow, and the bar so shallow, that the sea constantly breaks upon it. It is at all times dangerous, even for small boats, to attempt a passage into it; and many lives have been lost in consequence of the obstinacy of masters of vessels persisting in making the experiment, notwithstanding the natives had strongly impressed them with the danger of doing so.

Grand Bassam is equally dangerous to approach as Cape Lahoo river.

Assinee, the same.

Chamah, or St. John's, possesses much the same facilities of navigation as St. Andrew's. Large canoes, that are made of the ceiba, or silk cotton tree, are brought down this river, a little way from the interior, to Chamah, and are purchased chiefly by the Portuguese, who trade at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos.

Elmina, an insignificant stream.

Sacoom, the same.

The Volta is a river of much greater magnitude than any of the former; but its entrance is choked

by a flat of hard sand, which extends across it, and renders it impassable, even for small craft.

Popo, the embouchure of a lagoon, the eastern extremity of which is lost in a morass, one mile from the sea-shore, and this morass intersects the road to Ardrah,

Lagos river is only about five or six hundred yards wide at its entrance, although it has been dignified as one of the embouchures of the Niger. In my opinion, it merely empties into the sea the overflowings of two lakes, those of Cradoo and Ardrah; and at no very remote period probably, the sea-shore was continuous across where its mouth now is, and formed a narrow neck of land, which separated those lakes from the ocean; but which boundary the heavy periodical rains and sea demolished, by which means their waters found a quicker junction with the sea than by the Formosa. In confirmation of which, the bar is formed of hard sand, commences close to its mouth, and extends only three or four hundred yards to seaward; and is so shallow, that it is dangerous for boats drawing more than six or seven feet water to pass it.

Formosa, or Benin river, is two miles wide at its entrance from the sea, and has across it a bank of mud, extending to seaward three-quarters of a mile, on which there are only twelve feet of

water at spring tides. Vessels, whose draft of water does not exceed nine or ten feet, may generally pass it in safety, by taking the proper time of tide for doing so. A few miles from the sea, this river is only half a mile wide, and at New Town, little more than four or five hundred yards: much more importance has been given to it than it deserves. At New Town, it sends off two branches, nearly equal in magnitude to the main trunk, one of which runs to the north-east, and communicates with Gatto; and the other to the eastward, which joins the river Forçados. The direction of the main trunk is about N. E. by E. or E. N. E.; and at fifty miles from the sea, the river, according to the report of the natives, is not navigable for vessels of fifty tons burthen. The depth of water, in any part of this river, does not exceed four fathoms.

Bonny River at its entrance is six or seven miles wide, but it is also the embouchure of the river of new Calabar. A few miles from the sea, these rivers become contracted, the former not exceeding half a mile in width, and the latter is much less; one comes from north-west, the other from the north-east.

Old Calabar river is one of considerable magnitude, and Duke's Town, at which the vessels trade, and off which they are moored, is fifty

miles from the sea; the land about it is moderately elevated, dry, and habitable. A line drawn from east to west, to cut through Gatto and Duke's Town, would probably separate the wet alluvial tract in the bight of Benin from the dry land.

Del Rey river is wide at the entrance, and so near that of Old Calabar, that vessels have often mistaken and entered it for the latter.

The six rivers situated between Cape Formosa and Bonny have, in appearance, navigable entrances, although they have not been explored; they communicate with each other by creeks, in the interior, according to the reports of the natives. In fact, the canoes which I saw at Warré, belonging to New Calabar, must have crossed these rivers in their passage.

QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, AND INSECTS.

That the woods of western Africa are tenanted by innumerable herds of elephants, we may infer from the vast number of the tusks of this animal, which are annually purchased by Europeans, at the different places of trade, along this line of coast. They are generally shot by the Africans

with balls made of iron, the marks of which are often visible on the tusks, and sometimes the elephants have been so recently killed, that when their tusks have been brought to me for sale, I have observed ligaments of the gum perfectly fresh, adhering to them. Their flesh and fat is much esteemed by the blacks, the former as food, and the latter for lubricating their skins.

The hippopotamus, or sea-cow, is common in the fresh water rivers and lagoons; it browses on the grass and shrubbery growing on their margins, but is so shy and cautious, that it seldom permits any person to come within musket-shot of it.

Leopards, wolves, and jackals, are numerous, and frequently commit great depredations in the folds where sheep and goats are placed in the night, for greater security, although these folds are erected near and often adjoining the houses of their owners. Antelopes of various sizes are plentiful, and a beautiful little animal of this species, the Africans sometimes domesticate. Wild hogs are common and very ferocious.

But few horses are to be seen near the sea-coast, except at Ardrah, to which place they are brought from Eyeo. They are small sprightly animals, and indigenous to the country. The cattle are generally of a small breed, not unlike those reared

in the Highlands of Scotland. The entire carcass of one of them seldom exceeds three hundred pounds in weight. These, as well as sheep, which are long-legged and hairy, as also goats, are indigenous to Africa.

The birds of prey are eagles and vultures; the latter are the scavengers of tropical countries, and are so fearless of man, in consequence of the protection they receive from him for their useful qualities, that in some of the African towns they will scarcely move out of the path where he is walking. Many of the small birds have beautiful plumage; among which may be enumerated many varieties of the king's fisher, that frequent the creeks and pools of water. In the woods are to be found turtle-doves, and parrots of almost every description that is common to tropical countries; a small bird of the colour and size of a house-sparrow, is the only bird whose notes may be considered melodious.

Of the lizard species, the alligator is the most formidable; but it is a timid animal, and never attacks man, except when he is in the water. The iguana ranks next in size; the flesh of which is by many esteemed a dainty. There is a great variety of the smaller kinds of lizards, or fly-catchers; the colours of many of which are extremely beautiful, and among them may be ranked the camelion.

Monkeys, both of the short and long-tailed species, are common, particularly the latter; also a great variety of squirrels. There is a beautiful and perfect little animal of this species to be met with at Loango, which is not larger than a mouse; the colour of its hair is silver grey, and its bushy tail, when angry, swells to the size of its body.

Of the reptile species there is almost every variety, snakes, rats, bull-frogs, scorpions, centipedes, spiders, and bats of an enormous size.

Insects of every kind abound. On the Gold Coast there is a species of *lyttæ*, having the exact colour and resemblance of the Spanish fly, and emitting in its living state a most powerful aromatic smell, but whether it has the vesicating quality of the latter or not, I cannot say, as I never saw the experiment made. Ants are extremely numerous, and that destructive species called *termes*, is very common, particularly at Wydah and Ardrah, where they are called bugabug. Flies, which in respiring, emit light, are always visible in dark nights, and there is a species of large horse-fly at Benin, whose proboscis punctures the skin like a lancet.

Fish abounds in most of the rivers, particularly mullet, of a large size and superior flavour; but the sea supplies those people living near its shores with their chief varieties. Along the line of coast

extending from Sierra Leone to Popo, fishing is a source of livelihood to many of the inhabitants, who carry on the business not only to supply their own wants, but for the purpose of curing them, and sending them into the interior for sale. From Popo to Old Calabar, the natives derive no advantage from the sea, and it is seldom that any of them passes the surf in a canoe, although they are well acquainted with the management of this kind of craft, as the vast number of very large ones to be seen on their lagoons and rivers prove.

APPENDIX.

VESSELS bound from England to Africa, will find the best route to be (wind permitting) to make the Canary Islands, afterwards, shaping a course to carry them about mid-channel, between the Cape de Verd Islands and the continent of Africa; by which means, the circuitous route to the westward of the Cape de Verds (which is the beaten track) is avoided, and the most tedious portion of the passage to Africa, (the calm latitudes,) considerably abridged, by passing quickly out of the north-east trade wind into the south-west wind, which is the prevailing one on this part of the coast of Africa. Ships bound to the Gold Coast, and not intending to call on the windward coast, will find an advantage in passing the meridian of Cape Palmas in $3^{\circ} 50'$, or 4° north latitude, and making the high land of Drewin, to the eastward of that Cape, because the direction of the land

from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas is nearly south-east by east, by compass, which requires a ship, allowing for variation, to steer S. E. by S. to clear the land, and as the prevailing winds blow from south to south-west, with occasionally a strong current setting to the northward, much difficulty is often experienced, and valuable time consumed, in getting round Cape Palmas, by vessels falling in with the land to the northward and westward of that Cape.

In running for the Canary Islands, the indraft to the Straits of Gibraltar, or easterly current, should always be carefully guarded against, otherwise a vessel may be wrecked on the coast of Barbary. I had often remarked this current, but on my last voyage, it exceeded in velocity, in a duplicate ratio, what I had before experienced. We passed in sight of Cape Finisterre, and in eight days arrived in the latitude of the Canary Islands, when the longitude by dead reckoning was $16^{\circ} 30'$ west, but by lunar observation, $13^{\circ} 30'$ west, the current having set the vessel three degrees of longitude, or 144 miles, to the eastward, in eight days. It may be proper to remark here, that the log was hove every hour, and all due precaution used to ascertain with the greatest possible precision, the longitude by dead reckoning.

The atmosphere near the Canary Islands is generally hazy, but much more so as the coast of Barbary is approached, which renders precaution doubly necessary. In this instance, we ran the ship between the island of Fuertaventura and the main, without seeing either, and hauled up to the westward when to the southward of the south end of the former, to avoid Cape Bajadore. If celestial observations had not been used to ascertain the longitude, the probability is, that the ship would have been in great danger of being wrecked on the coast of Barbary; because, having had so late a departure, an error of such magnitude in the dead reckoning as three degrees would not have been apprehended, and not seeing any land when in the latitude of the islands, the conclusion might reasonably have been, that the ship was to the westward of Palma, and not to the eastward of Fuertaventura.

This current varies in velocity at different periods of the year. Sometimes it is scarcely perceptible, at other times running at the rate of thirty or forty miles in twenty-four hours, but always increasing in velocity in approximating the Barbary shore, until Cape Bajadore is passed to the southward.

Norris's chart of the coast of Africa, extending from Cape Palmas to Cape Lopez, and published

by Lawrie and Whittle in 1792, is sufficiently correct for the purposes of traders navigating that part of the coast, as the latitudes of the principal capes, or head-lands, are correctly laid down, as well also as the places of trade generally. There is an error in the longitude, of thirty-three miles of a degree too far to the eastward, the meridian of Greenwich being made to pass over Tantum-querry Point, instead of that of Barracoo Point. I found Annamaboo, by a mean of ten lunar observations, to be fifty-four miles west of Greenwich, and Cape Coast in $1^{\circ} 3'$ west of that meridian. The distance measured on Norris's chart, between the high land of Drewin and Cape Coast, I found by lunar observations to be very correct.

The ground from Bereby to Drewin is foul; therefore, in anchoring over these places, some precaution is necessary.

Picaninny Bassam lies at the bottom of a deep bay, called the bottomless pit, where there is not any anchorage until within half a cable's length of the shore; and many masters of vessels have found themselves very uncomfortable, when they have imprudently taken their vessels too far into this bay, and the wind has proved light and far southerly, from the difficulty they have experienced in getting them out of it, and their ground-tackle being rendered unavailable in case

of emergency, in consequence of the extreme depth of the water. This bay had therefore better be avoided by vessels of burthen.

The line of coast from Appollonia to Cape St. Paul's is well defined, the shore bold, and anchorage good; the reef off Tocarara is the only obstacle, and it lies much nearer the shore than is laid down in the chart. From Cape St. Paul's to Little Popo, the land is low; at the latter place there are three or four small hummocks, but from thence to Benin river it is extremely flat, no inequality presenting itself along the whole line of coast, which renders the intermediate places of trade very difficult to find. In running along the coast to the eastward and from Popo, in eight fathoms water, Grewhe town may be seen from the deck of a vessel, by using a good telescope, at about three miles from the beach, as there is scarcely any wood to intercept the view, and which will point out the proper anchorage of Wydah. Porto Nova road is twelve leagues to leeward of Wydah, and when I was there, the mark for anchorage was an isolated clump of large trees, in number probably twenty or thirty, bearing north, and growing very near the beach. The road to Ardrah winds close past them.

The road of Badagry is nearly equidistant from Porto Nova and Lagos, and has no particularly

marked object to be known by. The town is three miles from the beach, and situated on the north bank of the lake or river that descends from Ardrah into Lagos river, and is at Badagry about two hundred yards broad. A shrubbery intercepts the view of the town until the river is very nearly approached.

Between Badagry and Lagos river, numerous villages are scattered along the beach, reposing in pretty groves of cocoa-nut trees. The mouth of Lagos river is so contracted, that it might easily be passed unobserved, and often probably would be, were it not for the breakers off its entrance.

The course from Lagos to Benin is south-east by compass, and in approaching the latter place from the north-west, with an intention to run into that river, there are, on the eastern shore, extending from its mouth to the southward, two clumps of trees, very near each other, and which are higher than the line of shrubbery in which they are growing; (they are called the cock-up-bubbies, from their imperfect resemblance to mammæ;) these bearing E. S. E. run directly for them, until you open the river, then run in, keeping the western shore on board until past Jo creek; keep afterwards the centre of the river up to New Town, where vessels generally anchor in three and a half fathoms water. The bar is a flat

of mud of considerable extent, having only twelve feet water in it at spring-tides. After leaving Benin road, and rounding Cape Formosa, the seventh river to the eastward of that Cape is the embouchure of Bonny and New Calabar rivers: the distance, estimated from Foche Point, its western extremity, to Rough Corner, its eastern extremity, is seven miles. A ship may run with great safety from Cape Formosa to Bonny river in seven fathoms, and if of a moderate size, may pass the bar of that river at low water, there being on it at such times three and a half and four fathoms. The marks for entering it are two high trees at Peter-side,* a handspike's length open with Rough Corner. The sea breaks at half-ebb on the sand called the Baleur Head, lying on the starboard hand going in, and which is very steep too; as it does also on the western breakers on the larboard hand, so that the channel, which is broad, is itself also very distinctly marked. The passage out of the river is both shallow and intricate, and requires considerable caution in taking a ship through it; for however frequently a man may have been at Bonny, it will be prudent for him to examine the channel well, and buoy it, if necessary, before proceeding through it to sea.

* Peter-side is the name of a town on the right bank of the river Bonny, about five or six miles from its mouth.

Old Calabar and Camaroons rivers have both of them broad and deep entrances, the latter particularly, and very little experience is requisite to find the way both in and out of these rivers. The high lands of Romby and Backasy Gap, are good marks for finding the entrance of the former, and preventing the masters of vessels from mistaking the river Del Rey for it.

On Lawrie and Whittle's chart there are good surveys of the entrance of both the above rivers, as well as those of Bonny, Benin, and Lagos; although the course from the west head of Benin river to New Town, is marked in Mr. Dalzel's survey too much to the eastward, and New Town is about three miles farther from the bar than is there laid down. The embouchure of Lagos river is little more than half the width of that given by Captain Horsley, although in other respects his survey of that river and part of Cradoo Lake, is correct.

During the period of the year when land breezes alternate with those of the sea, the best mode of beating a ship to windward, is to get under way as soon as the wind blows steadily from the land, hugging the shore on board, as near as may be prudent; for by that means every advantage is derived from it that can be expected. Soon after day-light, this wind veers to the west, and lays the ship's head off shore; by eleven a. m.

the sea breeze will have acquired its strength and true direction, at which time also the vessel will have made a good offing. Tack, and stand in shore, anchoring when in eight fathoms water, where it will be proper to wait for the land wind. By adopting this method, a vessel is placed in the best possible situation for taking early advantage of the breeze from the shore; whereas, if she were kept under way during the night, the probability is, that she would lose all the ground she had gained the preceding day, independently of being placed where the land breeze might not reach her.

During the rains, when the sea breeze blows both in the day and night, and at a few leagues from the shore, from very near the south point of the compass, stand off shore for twenty-four hours, when the wind will mostly be found to blow at S. S. W. or S. by W. and often at the south; with the larboard tack on board, the vessel will lie up west clean full, and the variation being nearly two points westerly, she will not only make good her course, but southing also.

As the current at this season of the year sets strongly to the eastward, it will be prudent to allow thirty-six miles in twenty-four hours, for its mean velocity; otherwise, in bearing up, and making the land, the ship will be found to leeward of her port of destination. This is an error

many fall into. Perhaps it would be better to allow even forty-eight miles, because it is easy to run a few leagues to leeward, should the vessel prove to windward of the place to which she is bound.

These directions are given for vessels navigating between Cape Palmas and Lagos, although they will apply equally well to other parts of Africa, the localities of which are similar.

Description of a Vessel suitable for the Palm-oil trade, and Outfit.

Perhaps the size of the vessel best adapted for this description of African voyage, is a burthen, some one, registering 250 or 300 tons, coppered to the bends, and navigated with a crew of eight men to every 100 tons. Stores and provisions should be laid in for twelve months; and good casks, suitable in size to the stowage of the vessel, and adequate to contain all the oil she is capable of stowing. These casks must be put up in shakes, when leaving England, for the convenience of stowage; and their quality ought to be particularly good.

Two spare bower anchors, and one spare stream anchor, will be necessary; a chain cable also, of

100 fathoms, being provided with a proper swivel in the middle, for mooring with, so that the hemp cable may be saved, and the tedious operation of clearing hawse avoided. A conductor for lightning, and iron buoys, are proper; the one may save the ship from destruction, and the other the loss of the anchors; wooden buoys are liable to be wormed, and sink.

Craft of sixty or seventy tons burthen, that sail well, are best adapted for the gold and ivory trade, as they are capable of carrying a European cargo of sufficient magnitude to barter for a large amount in gold and ivory, and are navigated at a moderate expense.

Vessels trading for palm-oil, should sail from Europe before Christmas, and if they are intended to run down the coast, it will be proper for them to sail two or three months earlier. They should arrive in Bonny or Calabar by the 1st of March, the height of the palm-oil season being in the months of April, May, June, and July.

It being the indispensable duty of every master of a vessel to promote the health and comfort of the officers and men committed to his charge, as well on the ground of humanity, as for the ultimate success of the voyage in which he is engaged, the following brief remarks, founded on experience, may be useful.

In selecting a crew for a voyage to Africa, a preference should be invariably given to those officers and men who have been inured to that climate, provided their characters in other respects answer.

Neither officers or seamen should be employed in any duty on shore, or in the navigation of boats in creeks or rivers, for the purposes of trade, or for obtaining wood or water, where natives can be procured capable of performing those duties. A parsimonious conduct in this respect is highly culpable, and has occasioned the sacrifice of many valuable lives.

The charge of a boat having a valuable cargo on board must necessarily devolve on an officer, one therefore seasoned to the climate should be selected for the purpose.

No officer or seaman should be allowed to sleep *one night* on shore, if it can possibly be avoided ; neither should they be exposed to rain, or the meridian rays of the sun.

It is the practice in Calabar, Bonny, and Benin, for vessels to have roofs over them, constructed with mats, which are rendered impervious to rain, thereby preventing the crew from exposure to its baneful influence. Ships which do not proceed to those rivers, but are anchored off the coast, should be provided with superior main and quarter-deck awnings.

In rainy, foggy, or damp weather, fires placed in various parts of a vessel will be found beneficial, and fire-pans should be provided for that purpose.

The crew should be divided into as many watches as is consistent with the safety of the vessel, when in harbour, or at anchor off the coast; because a more vigilant look out will be kept by men whose hours of rest are not too much abridged, and they will also be better able to perform their daily avocations.

Various kinds of vegetables and fruit are generally to be obtained cheap in Africa, which should be purchased and served to the crew, but not sparingly, and fresh provisions as often as they can be obtained.

Sailors being too often improvident, a number of flannel shirts and trowsers should be sent out in the ship, in order that none may be unprovided with those important articles of dress, particularly during the rainy season.

A liberal allowance of provisions, and spirits or wine, should be provided for the crew. Cleanliness and regularity are important to their health and comfort.

Goods suitable to barter for Gold and Ivory on the Gold Coast, extending from Cape Palmas to the River Volta.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost		Trade	
		price in		value in	
		Eng.	Africa.	Eng.	Africa.
HALF SAYS, Blue	Kaape & Partridge best makers	£ 8	0 10	0 18	0 10
ELLS, Green	Ditto, particularly adapted for Cape	1 0	0 8	0 10	0 10
Ditto, Yellow	Appolonia trade	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
BEJUTAPAUTS, Red	India; Dutch pattern best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
Ditto, Blue	Ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
CHELLOES	Ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
NEGANIPAUTS	Ditto, Dutch pattern best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
NICCANEEES	Ditto, French pattern best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
TAPSAILS	Ditto best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
TOM COFFEE ROMAL	Manchester best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
TAPB	India small and large patterns assorted	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
ABANG	Ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
BONNY BLUE	Ditto fine small pattern and blue borders	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
HAIR	Ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
ASSHANTEE	Ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
CHINTZ	Five colours, Debelgrids best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
Ditto	Two ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
DANES, Red, 8 Handkerchiefs	Glasgow best mixed patterns	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
Ditto, Superfine	India	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
LINEN, Silasias	6 yards	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
COTTONS	London 2 blues, 4 yards	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
STUFFS, Guinea	India 2 blues best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
TAFFETA	Ditto small striped best	1 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
RUM, Ankars, 6 Gallons		0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
IRON, Bars		0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
LEAD, Bars	Four	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
GUNPOWDER, Kegs	Three to a barrel	1 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
Ditto	Six to ditto	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
TOBACCO, Leaf, Hbds.	Large leafy and strong best	15	0 0 0	0 10	0 10
GUNS	Dane and Buccanier best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
PIPES, Boxes	Dutch best	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
PANS, Brass	Assorted	0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10
PEWTER	1, 2, and 3lb basins	3lb	0 0 0	0 10	0 10
TALLOW, Kegs		0 10	0 10	0 10	0 10

The value of goods in gold on the Gold Coast, is estimated *pro forma* to be half the trade price, or half that price at which they were valued when bartered for slaves, as they are now valued when bartered for ivory, and as estimated in the annexed columns opposite to their denominations. The prices in gold are, nevertheless, governed by the demand, and the qualities and patterns of the articles on sale. Thus, a red bejutapaut

(Dutch pattern,) valued at ten ackies in trade, may sell for eight or nine ackies of gold; and a Tom Coffee, a broad tape, or a fine Bonny blue romal, of the value of six ackies in trade, may, and often does, sell for five ackies of gold. The other enumerated articles are, of course, governed in price by the same operating causes. At one period I have sold a hogshhead of tobacco, which cost £30 in England, for £260 sterling in gold; when, at another period, I could not obtain the cost price.

Half says, green and yellow ells, being woollen, are most in demand a short time before the vernal equinox commences. Inferior goods are generally bartered for ivory, such as common romals, chelloes, cottons, ankers of rum, iron and lead bars, gunpowder, guns, pipes, and beads.

It is imprudent for any master of a vessel to take gold from the natives in barter, without having a black gold-taker to examine it; for I have heard of those who, depending on their own judgment, have brought to England what they conceived to be boxes of that precious metal, and which, on inspection, proved to be almost wholly the filings taken from brass pans. A boat should therefore be sent to Cape Coast for gold-takers.

A vessel should be provided with two or three sets of scales, weights, and blow-pans, in order that the boats may be provided with them.

At all places of trade, ardent spirits have their strength reduced, by adding at the rate of one gallon of water to four gallons of spirits.

An ounce of gold is valued at four pounds sterling, and an acky of gold at five shillings.

Goods suitable to barter for Ivory, Palm Oil, &c. at Popo, Wydah, Ardrah, Badagry, and Lagos.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost	Trade
		price in value in Eng. Africa.	Eng. Africa.
CHELLOES	India, small pattern best	0 16 0	0 10
SASTRAUNDIES	Ditto, good colour	0 12 0	0 10
ALLIGARS	Ditto, ditto	0 12 0	0 10
CARRYDARRIES	Ditto, ditto	0 12 0	0 10
DANES, Red	Ditto, ditto, 8 handkerchiefs	0 10 0	0 8
PHOTAES	Ditto, ditto	0 16 0	0 8
ROMALS	Assorted, ditto	0 8 0	0 8
SILESIAIS	English or German, 6 yards always in great demand	0 5 0	0 2
CHINTZ	English 12 yards	0 18 0	0 8
CUTTANEEES	India, bright coloured and figured best	1 15 0	1 0
TAFFETIES	Ditto, red or red-striped best	2 0 0	1 0
LUNGEEES	Ditto	1 5 0	1 0
BANDANNOES	Ditto, blue	1 10 0	1 0
ENGLISH SILKS	Per piece, figured and plain	3 3 0	2 0
GUNPOWDER	Four kegs to the barrel,	0 16 0	1 0
GUNS	Soldiers' muskets	0 13 0	0 8
IRON BARS	120 to the ton	0 0 0	0 2
BRANDY, Kegs	Six gallons each	0 14 0	1 0
TOBACCO, Rolls	Brazil, if fresh, always in great demand	1 10 0	1 0
PIPES, Boxes .....	.....	0 4 0	0 6
GIN, Kegs or Cases .....	.....	0 14 0	1 0
CORAL, Real	Always in great demand, price arbitrary .....	.....	.....
Ditto, Mock .....	.....	0 0 0	0 0
COWRIES	16,000 to the ounce, always in demand	0 0 0	1 0
HANDKERCHIEFS, Pullicats	India, bright coloured and red	1 5 0	1 0
CALLAWAPORES	Ditto	0 11 0	0 8

Vessels trading at these places require one or two canoes, and a set of canoe-men, both of which are to be obtained at Cape Coast. The canoes may be purchased cheaper at Chamah, and fitted

at Cape Coast. Those suitable for the purpose, cost, when completed, eight or ten ounces of gold; and the canoe-men, in number twenty-one, receive monthly wages and subsistence during the time they are employed. The surf on this line of coast being very heavy, and the natives never passing it, either for the purpose of fishing or trade, and boats being *at all times* unavailable for the purpose of communicating with the shore, renders a canoe and canoe-men of the above description indispensable. Huts are erected on the beach, (except at Popo, where the town itself stands,) where officers from the vessels reside, to receive the goods and forward them to their places of destination. The natives of Grewhe are particularly adroit at purloining goods from the parcels sent by them, however well secured; and their neighbours of Ardrah, Badagry, and Lagos, are not much their inferiors in light-fingered dexterity. The Fantee canoe-men are thieves to a man.

The natives of Little Popo have always possessed a good trade in ivory, and much might be obtained at a cheap rate, as also palm-oil, both at Ardrah and Lagos; but particularly at the latter place, now that the trade in slaves, north of the equator, is abolished by all nations. Lagos is particularly well situated, as having a communi-

cation by water with Ardrah and Badagry; as also with those populous towns, Cradoo and Quassi, (*Kosi* of Bowditch,) on the north-east margin of Cradoo Lake; which lake contracts at its eastern extremity, like that of Ardrah, and communicates with Gatto creek.

Vessels bound here, ought to obtain on the Gold Coast what fire-wood may be required for the consumption of the voyage, as it is of a superior quality, more easily procured, and cheaper than at any of these places.

The duties paid by vessels trading for ivory are moderate. Slave-ships paid heavy sums, particularly at Wydah and Lagos. At these places, as on the Gold Coast, accounts are kept in ounces and ackies, sixteen ackies making one ounce.

Business is transacted in factories, situated in the principal towns.

Merchandise suitable to barter for Ivory and Palm Oil at Benin and Warré.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost	Trade
		price in Eng.	value in Africa.
		£ s d	Pawns.
SILKS, English	Pieces both of plain and figured	0 0 0	0
CUTTANES	India, plain and figured	1 15 0	10
TAFFETY	Assorted	1 15 0	10
DAMASK	A few pieces	9 0 0	0
LUNGES	India	1 10 0	8
HANDKERCHIEFS, Pullicat	Ditto, good red colour	1 10 0	8
CORAL	Real in great demand	0 0 0	0
ROMALS	Assorted, Bonny blues, red border best	0 10 0	4
CHELLOES	India, small pattern	0 15 0	6
CUNPOWDER	70 kegs to the barrel	0 0 0	1½
GUNS	Common	0 10 0	4
IRON		0 5 0	2
BEADS	Assorted, black point, bird's eye, china, &c.	0 2 6	1
BRANDY, Jass	2 gallons each	0 4 6	2
Ditto, Ankers	6 gallons each	0 12 0	6
SALT	Not in great demand	0 0 0	1
TOBACCO, Rolls	Brasil in great demand at all times	1 10 0	12
DANES, Red	India, good colour	0 10 0	4
ALLJARS	Ditto, ditto	0 10 0	4
PIPES		0 6 6	2

Common Hats, Earthenware, Looking-glasses, and Hardware, assorted; 60 or 70 tons of Salt in each cargo.

At Benin and Warré much palm oil and ivory may be obtained, and there can be no doubt at a much cheaper rate than either at Bonny, Callabar, or Camaroons; because the competition between traders at the latter places, during several seasons, has been so considerable as to raise the prices of palm oil from £10 to £14 sterling per ton; and some of the traders have been so foolish as to pay more for the ivory which they purchased at the Camaroons, than it would actually sell for in England.

A vessel of 250 tons burthen is probably the best size for this trade, carrying out upon her deck two boats as large as she can conveniently stow, with decks, masts, sails, &c. fitted, and

ready to be put in their births, as soon as the boats are hoisted out. A factory established at Lagos, with the ship lying off Benin Bar, would perhaps be the best arrangement for giving facility to the voyage, as the factory at Lagos would sweep the markets (supposing the country to be tranquil, and competition not to exist) of Ardrah, Badagry, and the towns on the margin of Cradoo Lake. The small boat should keep up the communication between the ship and the factory, at which latter place the canoe should be stationed, and by its medium the goods might be landed on the beach a little to leeward of the river, the portage from thence to the town being moderate. By adopting this mode of getting goods to the factory, contrary to the usual practice of English vessels, the health of the boat's crew will be preserved, and the unavoidable risk of the boat being upset upon the bar prevented; both of which are of the utmost importance in a voyage of this description.

In the larger boat, the trade may be carried on off New Town, in Benin river. A few Fantee sailors hired on the Gold Coast, and who can return home in the canoe when the ship's loading is completed, will be found of infinite service in navigating the large boat, and be the means of saving the lives of many of the ship's crew.

The customs levied on vessels for Benin and Warré, are moderate. The medium of exchange is salt, but accounts are kept in pawns, the value of one of which is equal to a bar in Bonny, averaging from 2s to 3s sterling each.

In trading for oil and ivory, it will be unnecessary to establish a factory at Gatto, as was the practice of slave ships, unless a competitor has fixed one in that town.

Merchandise suitable to barter for Palm Oil and Ivory at Bonny.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost	Value
		price in Eng.	in Africa.
		£ s d	Bars.
BAPTS, Blue	India, best	0 18 0	4½
CHELLOES	Ditto, small pattern, deep blue	0 16 0	4½
BEJUTAPAUTS	Ditto, Dutch ditto, deep red	0 18 0	4½
NEGANIPAUTS	Ditto	0 17 0	4½
NICCANKEES	Ditto	0 15 0	3½
PHOTAES	Manchester	0 10 0	3½
CUSHTAES	Ditto	0 10 0	3½
ROMALS, Bonny Blue	India, small pattern, red border best	0 10 0	3
Dito, Tape	Ditto	0 10 0	3
Dito, Common	Manchester	0 18 0	3
BANDANNONES	India, yellow best	1 10 0	4½
PULICATS	Ditto	1 5 0	4½
CHINTZ	English, large pattern, blues best	0 12 0	4½
IRON BARS	160 bars to the ton	0 2 0	1
GUNS	Soldiers' muskets, best	0 15 0	4
Dito, French and Spanish		0 10 0	4
GUNPOWDER	70 kags to the barrel	3 3 0	1½
NEPTUNES		1 5 0	3
MANILLOES	40 to a bar	0 5 0	1
COPPER RODS	In boxes	0 0 0	4½
OX HORNS	Rough	0 0 0	1
BEADS, assorted	China, black points, bird's eye, barley-corn, and guinea guinea, &c.	0 0 0	1
FLINTS		0 0 0	1
HARDWARE	Assorted, in razors, scissors, knives, &c. &c.	0 0 0	0
BRANDY	English, in puncheons		
HATS	Common, 2½ dozen		
WORSTED CAPS			

Fifty tons of Salt in each cargo.

The trade in palm oil has been increasing at Bonny for some time past. Five vessels, of the burthen of 300 tons each, have obtained full cargoes there during the last two seasons, the cost price of which was from £12 to £15 sterling per ton. It ought to be remarked, that when the slave trade here was in its greatest activity, masters of vessels sometimes found much difficulty in obtaining two or three puncheons of palm oil for the use of the slaves on the middle passage, and have been compelled to send for it to Old Calabar.

The natives of Bonny are expert traders, and obtain from masters of vessels very extensive credits, who grant them this indulgence, in order to bind them to their interests, and the *great secret* of the trade, both here and at Old Calabar, where credit is even more extensively given, is to discriminate properly in whom to place confidence, for many of them are so unprincipled, that after having obtained in this way, a large amount of goods from one captain, they take their native produce for sale, to another. Others, however, are very punctual in their dealings, and when they see a captain too liberal in lending or giving, advise him to be more circumspect, or, to speak in one of their metaphors, to keep his hand shut.

The customs or duties payable by a ship, amount to about £150 sterling.

Merchandise suitable for Old Calabar.

Names of Goods.	Remarks.	Cost	Value
		price in Eng.	in Africa.
		£ s d	coppers
PHOTAKS	India in great estimation	0 18 0	30
ALLIARS	Ditto, and of good colour	0 10 0	24
SISTRACUNDIES	Ditto, ditto	0 12 0	24
CARRYDARRIES	Ditto, ditto	0 12 0	24
ROMALS, TOM COFFEE	Ditto, always in demand, best	0 10 0	24
ASSHANTEE	Ditto, ditto		
BONNY BLUE	Ditto, ditto, red borders best		
BROAD TAPE	Ditto, ditto		
QUADUCKER	Ditto, ditto	0 10 0	24
DANES, Red	Glasgow, ditto		
RAFTS, Blue	India	0 18 0	24
LUNGERS	Ditto	1 5 0	24
POLLICATS	Ditto	1 5 0	24
CHINTZ	English, large pattern	0 18 0	24
GUNPOWDER	♣ barrel	3 8 0	300
GUNS	Soldiers' muskets, with brass pans, in } great demand	0 15 0	40
Ditto	Common	0 11 0	30
HEADS	China, black point, bird's eye, } guinea guinea, &c. China } ♣ bunch are in the greatest estimation	0 2 6	
IRON BARS	160 to the ton	0 2 0	
LEAD Ditto			
COPPER RODS	A box		
FLINTS			
HARDWARE	Assorted, in scissors, knives, razors, } locks, needles, &c. &c.		
EARTHENWARE	Assorted, in mugs, jugs, basins, plates, } &c.; mugs with covers always sell well		
STONE JARS, 2 gallon			
BRANDY	English, in puncheons		
RUM	Leeward Island, ditto		

SALT, an important article of trade, and is sold in tubs of 36lb, for 4 coppers ♣ tub.

A considerable trade in palm-oil was carried on at Old Calabar, during the existence of the slave-trade, and has augmented very much in the last four or five years. In the last season, not less than 2000 tons have been imported into Liverpool from thence.

The oil is purchased by the tub or cruee of 10 gallons, for 18 coppers, the price varying according to the demand, and 18 coppers may be deemed a high price, the oil costing at that rate, nearly £14 sterling per ton.

Salt being very cheap in Liverpool, and always in demand at Calabar, the vessels going there generally take, of that article, the amount of their register tonnage, beside a well assorted cargo of the other enumerated articles.

A house on shore for the storage of oil as it is purchased, is therefore requisite, until a quantity of salt is disposed of, so that the oil can be received on board. The casks which receive it are carried out in shakes, and set up in the country, much precaution being used in trimming and coating them. In consequence, vessels take three or four coopers, the mortality among that class of artificers being generally great, by reason of much of their duty being performed on shore.

The duties payable, amount to about £250 sterling, a moiety of which goes to Duke Ephraim, the principal chief; the residue is divided amongst the minor chiefs. The currency of the country is copper rods.

Barwood is obtained at a very cheap rate, but its value in England is so much reduced, that few vessels take more than is sufficient for broken stowage and dunnage.

Many of the traders expect and receive credit to a great extent; a master of a vessel therefore, in selecting those in whom to place confidence, ought to be possessed of sound judgment and acute discrimination.

*Merchandise suitable to barter for a small cargo of Ivory and Barwood, at
Ambrize, Cabenda, Malemba, Loango, and Majumba.*

Names of Goods.		Remarks.	Cost price in Eng.
BAFFS, Blue.....	50	India, best	@ 18s..... £45
NEGANIPAUTS	50	Ditto	" 18..... 40
CHELLOES	50	Ditto	" 18..... 40
ROMALS, Dames	50	Ditto	" 12..... 30
GUNPOWDER.....	10	Barrels	" 60..... 30
EARTHENWARE	8	Crates of common	" 100..... 40
BUM, Punchoons	5	Leeward Island.....	" 220..... 55
IRON BARS.....	300	.....	2 tons..... 52
NEPTUNES, Tub	1	.....	..... 36
BRASS RODS, Boxes	1	.....	..... 4
BLUE CLOTH, Pieces	3	.....	@ 12s 7½ yd. 36
BAIZE, Pieces	3	.....	" 3..... 10
STONE JARS	200	1 gallon each	" 1..... 10
SALT	40	Tons	" 20 ½ ton 40
GUNS	100	Birding and Tower	" 12..... 60
HARDWARE	1	Cask assorted, in knives, scissors, razors, &c.	..... 20
PIPES, Boxes	5	.....	..... 2
UMBRELLAS	10	dozen, colours various .....	..... 30
			£558

This abstract is adequate to purchase four or five tons of ivory, and from fifty to one hundred tons of barwood, unless there is much competition.

An extensive trade in ivory is carried on at the above places, and on the line of coast extending from Majumba to Gaboon; at the latter places, barwood is also obtained of good quality.

Fast-sailing vessels, of the burthen of 80 tons, and from that to 120 tons, are the sizes most suitable to be employed in the ivory trade. Business is generally transacted in factories on shore.

Ivory is often purchased on this coast at so moderate a price, as to leave a good profit for the

adventurer, although much time is consumed in obtaining it. When a vessel has finished her purchase of ivory, her cargo is completed with barwood, at Majumba or Gaboon.

The currency of the country is mats made from the bamboo; cloth is valued by the piece and fathom, and other goods bear a relative value.

The duties payable at the various places of trade are inconsiderable, a few presents, of small value, given to the principal men, is all that is expected from vessels trading for ivory.

The natives of Cape Lopez, River Danger, and Corisco, are treacherous, and should be watched.

*An abstract of a Cargo suitable to purchase 100 tons of Palm Oil at Calabar,
at £14 4^p ton.*

100 Tons of SALT	£160	Copper	8,960
50 Barrels GUNPOWDER	150	"	15,000
200 Soldiers' MUSKETS, with brass pans ..	185	"	8,000
200 PHOTAS	180	"	6,000
300 ROMALS, assorted	162	"	7,900
100 ALLIGARS	50	"	2,400
100 SASTRACUNDIES	60	"	2,400
100 CARRIAGES	60	"	2,400
20 Pecs. Lunges Romal HANDKERCHIEFS ..	25	"	800
20 ditto Fullcat	25	"	800
10 ditto CHINTZ, English	90	"	2,400
6 Puncheons English BRANDY, or RUM ..	66	"	4,460
BEADS, IRON BARS, COP- PER RODS, HARDWARE, EARTHENWARE, Common HATS, WORSTED CAPS,	assorted, of the value of } 247	"	10,620
	£1,400	Coppers	68,700

Camaraons—for one Ton of Ivory, valued at £240.

15	Tons SALT	£15	3	Punchons BRANDY	£30
17	Barrels GUNPOWDER	51	30	BRASS PANS	37
50	GUNS, Tower-proof	30		BEADS, IRON, LEAD, } assorted, }	41 of the value of
10	Blue India BAFTS	10		HARDWARE, EARTH- }	
40	PHOTAES, } Manchester	14		ENWARE,	
40	ROMALS, } ditto	14			
19	India ROMALS, assorted	5			
30	CHELLOES, Manchester	18			£360

Ten tons of Salt added to the above assortment, is adequate to purchase at the same place 30 tons of Palm Oil.

Guns, Gunpowder, Neptunes, and Mock Coral, always in great demand.

Goods adapted to purchase 100 tons of Palm Oil at Benby, at £15 £/ ton.

100 Barrels GUNPOWDER, in 7000 kegs ..	£300	Bars 10,500
100 Blue BAFTS, India	100	" 450
400 GUNS	375	" 1,000
50 CHELLOES	40	" 200
200 ROMALS, assorted	100	" 600
100 NICCANES	75	" 300
100 PHOTAES, Manchester	50	" 300
100 Pieces English CHINTZ	60	" 400
20 BANDANNOES	30	" 80
30 PULLICATS	24	" 80
3 Punchons BRANDY or RUM	88	" 400
NEPTUNES, IRON BARS, } LEAD BARS, BEADS, as- } sorted, OX HORNS, COP- } PER RODS, FLINTS, } small bars, } HARDWARE, assorted, .. } of the } 250 — " 2,500 EARTHENWARE, do. .. } value of }		
HATS, CAPS,		
	£1300	Bars 17,500

At Cape Lahob, and adjacent places, to purchase one ton of Ivory.

120 Half-ounce kegs GUNPOWDER ..	£80	Oz. Ac.
50 Dene or Buccanier GUNS	35	18 12
40 Ankers BRANDY	22	11 0
30 Common ROMALS	20	25 0
15 CHELLOES	22	18 12
15 BEJUTAPAUTS } Common	22	18 12
20 Half Cottons	6	5 0
20 Guinea STUFFS	3	2 8
10 Boxes PIPES	3	3 12
AGATE BEADS,		
IRON BARS, LEAD BARS, } assorted 27 — 15 0		
DUTCH KNIVES,		
EARTHENWARE,		
	£300	150 12

The goods enumerated in the different columns, are valued nearly at what their minimum prices have been for some years past, when those imported from India have been cheap, with the exception of photaes and romals of fine quality, and of favourite patterns.

Besides the cargoes sent in vessels to Africa, the captains generally take with them a few presents for those chiefs with whom they mean to trade, and whose favour and interest it is important for them to obtain. These presents chiefly consist of gold-laced hats, silver-headed canes, pieces of rich silk, and embroidered coats and waistcoats.



In trading with the Africans, punctuality is of great importance, paying them to the last farthing whatever is their due, and in all transactions with them, it is not only just, but politic, to deal honourably with them, never taking an unfair advantage of the ignorance of any individual, by which means their confidence is acquired. A trader once over-reached by an European, becomes an object of ridicule to his townsmen, and will not easily be induced to traffic again with the same individual, particularly if he can obtain